

Kim Warns Koreans of Pain Ahead

*Trust Me' on Sacrifices,
President-Elect Pleads*

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — President-elect Kim Dae Jung warned South Koreans on Sunday that they will face "terrible hardships" to rebuild the country's economy and urged the nation to accept layoffs and other sacrifices.

"If we do well this year, we will be able to get out of this crisis from the middle of next year," Mr. Kim said in a televised meeting with a sampling of his constituency.

"Please trust me," he said, his voice heavy with emotion. "Just trust me, I know I can do it, just trust me."

He spoke as a delegation of his top economic advisers was flying to New York for critical talks with creditor banks on rolling over more than \$25 billion in debts.

The two-hour "conversation with citizens" was broadcast live on the nation's four television networks and watched in freezing temperatures by crowds in front of big-screen television sets at Seoul's central railroad station and in public squares in other large cities.

It was Mr. Kim's first major public appearance before his people since he won the presidential election Dec. 18 with barely 40 percent of the vote.

"We're just entering a dark IMF tunnel," he said, referring to the conditions attached to the \$60 billion

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South Koreans listening Sunday at a railroad station in Seoul as Kim Dae Jung told the nation that if it sacrifices, the crisis could end in mid-1999.

Asia's Economic Model Yields to the Bottom Line

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

SEOUL — Sitting in his office just off the factory floor, a week's stubble on his face and weariness in his eyes, Kim Jung Ju eyes his workers carefully, figuring out whom he might lay off next.

Now the bottom line is everything," Mr. Kim said mournfully, complaining that the relationships that were the underpinning of South Korean capitalism were dying quickly. "Before, companies that had done business with us for a decade would help us out in times of trouble. But no more."

So the customers of Mr. Kim's clothing factory are breaking the rules of the game by squeezing him and curbing

orders. And he reacts by breaking the rules again and laying off one-third of his 130 employees.

That is the harsh reality of free-market capitalism, and it might be unremarkable in the United States. But this is Asia, where in the past some nations followed a different economic model, emphasizing not markets but government planning and long-term relationships.

That version of capitalism, particularly the variety developed by Japan and adopted by South Korea, is now widely regarded as a problem rather than a solution. For the present at least, the Asian financial crisis is driving governments and businesses alike toward a more Adam Smith-inspired, market-oriented version of capitalism.

While many aspects of East Asia's community ethos will remain, Asian officials and scholars suggest that the region's economies may emerge from the financial crisis looking a bit more like the American economy.

"Everybody has been liberating markets to take advantage of globalization and the world economy," said Jusuf Wanandi, chairman of a policy research center in Jakarta. "So we are all moving more to the American model."

The changes are matters of degree, and even modest change will take time. But in Chung Yoon Goo's small clothing factory in Seoul, the transition is already apparent. Not only has Mr. Chung laid off a third of his work force, rather than keep them on in hopes for a

rebound as he would have done in the old days, he is now scrutinizing data as much as cultivating relationships.

"Our methods of doing business have changed a lot," Mr. Chung said as he sat at a small table near the factory floor. "We put a lot more emphasis on making sure that we have confidence in the companies we deal with. For companies listed on the stock exchange, for example, we conduct a thorough review of their financial standing, because now even the big companies can go belly up very quickly."

While the changes under way seem breathtaking to a South Korean worker, they still leave the region looking — to rebound as he would have done in the old days, he is now scrutinizing data as much as cultivating relationships.

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With Techies Logged On Abroad, Corporate U.S.A. Fills in the Gaps

By Allen R. Myerson
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The United States has a shortage of techies, but Corporate America has already hit on a response: global telecommuting. U.S. technology companies have created a new realm of international trade by exporting their work and hiring programmers overseas to do it.

Having already scooped up any U.S. programmers they could by offering them the chance to ride the Internet to work from their homes in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, or Boulder, Colorado, corporations are reaching out to places like South Africa and the Philippines.

So increasingly, the world's commerce involves not just tankers filled with Brent crude or container ships laden with VCRs, but cables buzzing with computer programming code, product designs and engineering diagrams and formulas.

Some companies bring the workers to the work, searching the world for computer specialists will-

ing to come to the United States. But virtual immigration, where the workers stay put, has become far more common, and remains much cheaper.

The software unit of a single company, Tata Sons Ltd. of India, has 5,000 developers, and can immediately deploy 100 techies on an American corporation's mission. India's software exports have grown from \$225 million in 1992 to \$1.15 billion in 1996, with a goal of \$3.6 billion in 2000.

Although banks, among other global institutions, have been electronically advantaged for years, the expense has fallen dramatically. Instead of high-capacity leased lines that can cost hundreds or thousands of dollars a month, a phone connection and an Internet service provider will often do.

"It's no longer an international phone call. Now, it's an Internet file exchange," said Esther

Dyson, author of "Release 2.0: A Design for Living in the Digital Age." A "cyberdiplomat" known for striving to make Eastern Europe at least as wired as its Western neighbors, Ms. Dyson also serves on the board of the PRT Group in Barbados, a software and computer systems design firm, and Sofistep, a company from Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia.

While some global telecommuters, like many Americans, work at home, most are clustered in the foreign quarters of American companies or in the offices of foreign contractors like Tata. Projects can receive round-the-clock attention as they are handed from continent to continent. IBM teams in Europe, India and the West Coast have kept the development of Java software for the Internet going at all hours.

Even as the giants like Tata prosper, the Internet is also allowing pipsqueaks to be heard and seen,

offering electronic sales pitches and work samples. Corporations like IBM find themselves hiring tiny foreign firms that could never have found their way through these companies' front doors.

Those specialists who do migrate to the United States have an advantage in spotting talent back home. Under Sanjiv Sidhu, a native of Hyderabad, India, and Sandy Tungare, an executive from Bombay, 12 Technologies of Dallas runs software development centers in Bombay and Bangalore, where the neighbors include Motorola Inc., Intel Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Co. Software developers who would earn at least \$50,000 in the United States can be paid about a third as much in India, Mr. Tungare says.

The rise of global telecommuting has begun shaping trade policies and international relations. India, once utterly protectionist, has allowed U.S. computer companies to import equipment by the tax-free boatload, and extends all manner of other

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A Changing Cuba Embraces Catholicism

Pope's Visit Heralds Growing Tolerance

By Serge F. Kovaleski
Washington Post Service

CATALINA, Cuba — For most of his life, Jorge Perez outwardly embraced the notion of state-sponsored atheism, paying lip service to the communist creed that religion is "the opiate of the masses" and ostracizing those who held faith.

But privately, Mr. Perez found himself drawn to the Roman Catholic Church and believing that devotion to God would enrich his life more than the piety he was expected to display toward Marxist political ideology.

Today, the 37-year-old farmer openly practices his religion with little apprehension. He and his family attend weekly prayer services in this agricultural town 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Havana and recently took part in one of the first open-air Masses allowed by the Cuban government since the triumph of the communist revolution here nearly four decades ago. The one Catholic Church in Catalina has seen membership grow in the last few years to 150 people, from 25.

"As a child of the revolution I saw, and in some ways was responsible for, what it meant to be Catholic," Mr. Perez said. "I mean the fear, the paranoia and the consequences that people suffered through simply for believing in



Children playing in a vacant lot on a seaside avenue in Havana near a poster of Pope John Paul II, who arrives Wednesday for a five-day visit.

God, for trying to find some solace from the problems we have to endure in this country."

As Cuba prepares for a five-day visit by Pope John Paul II beginning Wednesday, state intolerance of religious freedom is easing, rousing a heightened interest in Catholicism and other de-

nominations on this Caribbean island of 11 million inhabitants.

In recent weeks, the church has been allowed to hold several open-air Masses and public processions. For the first time in 30 years, the state declared last

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AGENDA

Arafat Warns Of New Uprising

GAZA CITY (AP) — Yasser Arafat warned Sunday that violence could return to the region if the deadlock in the peace process was not resolved.

"We are ready to return to where we left off and restart the seven years of *intifada*," the Palestinian leader said at a rally here, referring to the Palestinian uprising that began 10 years ago.

Mr. Arafat is to meet with President Bill Clinton this week.

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The IHT on-line www.iht.com

Bonn Weighs Rewards For Tips on Tax Evaders

Critics Assail Plan Reminiscent of Darkest Past

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — State informants have an odious pedigree in Germany. The Nazi dictatorship and East Germany's Communist rulers sustained their power through a network of domestic spies who were encouraged to rat on colleagues, neighbors and even spouses deemed to be "enemies of the state."

The prosperous democracy that has flourished for nearly 50 years as the Federal Republic of Germany has scored such methods and prided itself on protecting innocent people from vengeful accusers. But with the government losing as much as \$100 billion a year through tax evasion, German authorities are saying drastic measures that carry some sinister overtones to the past may be necessary.

Finance ministers from Germany's 16 states will meet this week to consider plans to offer cash rewards to informants who squeal on suspected tax evaders.

The proposal has unleashed protests that such payoffs would resurrect a "denunciation culture" that has characterized the darker periods of modern Ger-

man history. Civil libertarians warn that angry employees, jilted lovers and abandoned wives would produce an avalanche of accusations that would overwhelm investigators and erode trust in relationships.

"We must not create a snoper state that reminds us of the unspeakable practices of the Nazis and Communists," said Karl-Heinz Daede, president of the Federation of German Taxpayers. "The smartest thing this government could do is to bury this idea as soon as possible."

With national elections scheduled for September, politicians are reluctant to endorse any tax-collection initiatives that smack of the totalitarian past.

But with the state facing a slide in revenues when it is desperate to trim budget deficits to qualify for the planned single European currency, members of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's center-right government say they have no choice but to wage an all-out war against tax evasion.

With top income-tax rates now at 53 percent, wealthy Germans are moving their money out of the country at a record

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Texas Suit, Starring Oprah, Will Test 'Food Disparagement' Laws

By Sue Anne Pressley
Washington Post Service

AMARILLO, Texas — On one side is Oprah Winfrey, the talk-show host from Chicago so influential that her fondness for a certain book can send it soaring to the top of the best-seller lists. On the other is a collection of angry Texas cattlemen who contend that Ms. Winfrey and her popular show have hurt their business by hosting a rant on "mad cow" disease — and that she ought to pay dearly for what she and her guests said.

The legal standoff that is to begin Tuesday in a

federal court here on the high, wind-swept plains of the Texas Panhandle already has inspired jokes and derisive comments. But those on both sides of the issue agree that this is a serious battle with far-reaching consequences.

It is the first court test of a new wave of "food disparagement" laws — so-called veggie libel laws — now on the books in Texas and a dozen other states. As such, they say, the trial here is important to food producers, food-safety groups, the media and consumers throughout the country.

Supporters of the laws, which grew out of the

1989 scare involving the use of the chemical Alar in apple orchards, say they provide a much-needed recourse for farmers and ranchers when their products are attacked with unsubstantiated claims. They argue, for example, that while former President George Bush can say he hates broccoli because that is his personal opinion, no one should be able to say broccoli kills people without being able to prove it.

"The laws do not say, 'Thou shall not speak ill of meat and milk,' but that you'd better be able to stand up in court and prove what you said," said Steve Kopperud, senior vice president of the

American Feed Industry Association, a national trade group for the producers of commercial livestock feed.

Critics of the laws, however, say they have a muzzling effect on free speech at a time when Americans' concern over the safety of their food is growing. They say that if the cattlemen win, a flurry of similar lawsuits, many of them frivolous, and more disparagement laws could ensue.

"This is a historic lawsuit, and it's getting attention because Oprah Winfrey is the defendant. See LIBEL, Page 5

Hughes Breaks Silence / Plath, the Feminist Martyr

After 35 Years, the Poem of Sylvia and Ted

By John Burgess
Washington Post Service

LONDON — For 35 years they have been awaiting an explanation, sometimes growing angry over the delay. Devotees of the poet Sylvia Plath, who committed suicide in a London apartment in 1963, have wanted to hear from her husband, a fellow poet, who had separated from her shortly before she died.

But Ted Hughes kept silent. He got on with his life. He became Britain's poet laureate. Along the way he offered hardly a word about his and Plath's failed seven-year marriage and what role he might have played in the final despair of a woman who became an icon of the feminist movement. Now the wait is over.

Mr. Hughes is telling his story of their life together in verse, 198 pages of it, starting from the moment he scanned a news photo of young American Fulbright scholars, newly arrived in England in 1955, and wondered idly if he might meet any of them. Prepared in secrecy, the book "Birthday Letters" was excerpted in The Times here Saturday and instantly became the talk of the literary world, though sales will not begin until the end of the month. "It sounds very exciting," said the poet James Fenton. "Good for him, I say, that he's managed to put together so many poems about this subject and allowed us to see them."

Today, Mr. Hughes is 67. Tall and craggy, he writes verse for state occasions, campaigns for river conservation and gives readings in a voice that could only belong to one of his calling. But for all his accomplishments, his long-ago link with a bigger name is a large part of who he is in the literary world.

Writing up to her death in 1963, Plath used jarring, sometimes morbid images to convey feelings of loneliness and general powerlessness of a woman in postwar America. Her work rang true to more and more people in the 1970s and '80s, notably feminists, and she became one of the best-selling poets of the century, a posthumous Pulitzer Prize winner.

Mr. Hughes's defenders say Plath was unstable from the beginning — she had tried suicide before their marriage — and drove him out of the house. But for the past 35 years, he has been subjected to constant, often vicious hostility from people who variously consider him heartless, responsible for her suicide or a symbol of male domination in general.

Vandals hacked his surname off her headstone in Yorkshire; someone once piled his papers on floors in several rooms of his home and set fire to them.

Andrew Motion, a poet and critic here, doubts that Mr. Hughes's hard-core critics will be swayed by the poems in "Birthday Letters." But Mr. Motion, who knows Mr. Hughes, says that the verse proves the man's deep tenderness. "You can't read



Plath, who committed suicide in 1963, and Hughes, who went on to become poet laureate, were married seven years. Now he is telling the story of their life — in verse.

this book without being absolutely swept away by his feelings for her," he said.

It was a tumultuous bond from the start. Their first meeting, in February 1956 at a boozy London party for the launching of a new magazine, has passed into literary legend. Details vary, but they apparently retired to a back room where Mr. Hughes appears to have kissed Plath hard and ripped off her scarf, and she to have responded by biting him on the face.

In his new verse, Mr. Hughes writes of leaving the party with a swelling ring-moat that was to brand my face for the next month/The me beneath is for good.

HE MADE AN IMPRESSION on her, too. She wrote a few days later to her mother that he was "the only man I've met yet here who'd be strong enough to be equal with — such is life."

She was 23 at the time, a graduate of Smith College who was already a prize-winning writer. He was a Cambridge University graduate in English and anthropology; a sometime rose gardener given to cruising around London in a corduroy jacket with poems stuffed in the pockets.

Some of the excerpts published Saturday recount their courtship. He writes of an early walk around London with her:

We clutched each other giddily
For safety and went in a barrel together
Over some Niagara ...

You were slim and lithe
and smooth as a fish.
You were a new world. My
new world.

They married in June 1956. In later years, they moved to the United States, then back to London. They had two children. Along the way, they became perhaps the premier literary couple of the time. She published her first book of poems, "The Colossus," in 1960. In 1963 came an autobiographical novel, "The Bell Jar," drawing on the despair that led to her first suicide attempt.

But they never found a settled nest, traveling frequently. Tension began to appear at home.

All the time, deeper rage and frustration were evident in her writing. Many of Mr. Hughes's critics see him in some of it. Her poem "Daddy" focuses on feelings of love and abhorrence for her father, who died when she was 8, but her husband seems to appear in the words as well:

The vampire who said he was you
And drank my blood for a year
Seven years, if you want to know.

In 1962, involved with another woman, Mr. Hughes moved out. He left Plath caring for their two small children.

One night in February that year, she turned on the gas in the kitchen. She was found dead the next morning. Mr. Hughes inherited rights to her works and later edited and published some of them. His career advanced — he became poet laureate in 1984 — but the sniping continued. At times he responded to critics in letters to newspapers, but for the most part he let it go.

"That silence seems to confirm every worst suspicion," he wrote in a 1989 letter. "I preferred it on the whole, to allowing myself to be dragged out into the bull-ring and teased and pricked and goaded into vomiting up every detail of my life with Sylvia," according to "The Silent Woman: Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath" by Janet Malcolm.

But now, for reasons he hasn't explained, Mr. Hughes is giving a detailed account, in poems that were written over a quarter-century.

Mr. Motion, one of the few people to have read the full work, says the poems' complexity increases as Mr. Hughes moves toward Plath's death. "You see it's written in a burning, continuing process — like she's just left the room," he said.

U.S. Gave British Data To IRA, Ex-Envoy Says He Calls Dublin Ambassador an Adams 'Agent'

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

LONDON — A former American ambassador to Britain has accused the Clinton administration of leaking British intelligence on Northern Ireland to the Irish Republican Army.

He also said that the current United States ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy Smith, was an "ardent IRA apologist" who had to be restrained from meddling in the affairs of the North, which is a part of the United Kingdom.

Raymond Seitz, the U.S. envoy in London from 1991 to 1994, says in a memoir to be published next week that in late 1994, British security became so suspicious of the White House that it began to hold back sensitive information. Early that year, President Bill Clinton approved the visa application of Gerry Adams, head of the Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, an act that Mr. Seitz had strongly advised against.

"Through the following months, the Clinton White House made one concession after another (fund-raising, official recognition, high-level meetings, presidential photos and so forth), and again and again it backed away from its own conditions, usually over the furious objections of the British," Mr. Seitz writes, in an excerpt from the book published in The Sunday Telegraph. "In this fractious atmosphere, London even stopped passing sensitive intelligence to the White House because it often seemed to find its way to the IRA."

The "conditions" Mr. Seitz referred to were demands that Mr. Adams resisted to renounce violence and commit himself to a joint declaration that the British and Irish prime ministers had agreed to weeks before in an effort to get Sinn Fein to join peace talks.

"America, which had suffered so often at the hands of terrorists around the world, should have been the last place to offer a platform to Gerry Adams, but in the end this is what the president did," Mr. Seitz writes.

He said the appointment of Mrs. Smith as envoy to Dublin was clearly a political favor to her brother, Senator Edward Kennedy. Even understanding that "Dublin had always been a plaything for American presidents who wanted to score a point or two with the Irish-American electorate," Mr. Seitz said, he felt the selection was "curious" not because of Mrs. Smith's inexperience but because she was both willful and skittish, a dangerous mix. From Clinton's point of view, however, Kennedy was a Kennedy.

He said she became a "promotion agent" for Mr. Adams and added, "Too shallow to understand the past and too naive to anticipate the future, she was an ardent IRA apologist." When she insisted on making contacts in Belfast, he refused, and she became upset, he said. "Kennedy has a hard time absorbing refusal," he said.

Mr. Seitz, a career foreign service officer in a post usually given to political appointees, was a popular ambassador with the British, and he has remained in London as vice chairman of Lehman Brothers and a frequent contributor to British news outlets on Anglo-American subjects. He was appointed by President George Bush but

remained in office under President Clinton until his replacement by Admiral William Crowe, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Asked for comment, Mrs. Smith said in Dublin, "History will be the judge."

In London, the prime minister's office, the Foreign Office and the Northern Ireland Office all said they were barred from comment by "long-standing policy to not discuss security issues."

Mr. Adams was to meet with Prime Minister Tony Blair on Monday to discuss the peace talks in Belfast. Of particular concern is the opposition that Sinn Fein announced over the weekend to a British-Irish plan for Northern Ireland introduced at the talks last week as a possible basis for a settlement to the Catholic-Protestant conflict.

The plan called for the creation of several legislative and consultative bodies that would further ties between Belfast and Dublin, a Catholic objective, while validating the province's status as a part of the United Kingdom, a Protestant goal.

Sinn Fein is a participant in the talks because the IRA resumed a lapsed cease-fire in July and Mr. Adams and his associates pledged themselves to nonviolence.

■ 4th Catholic Killed in Ulster

A Protestant guerrilla group in Ulster claimed another victim Sunday, Reuters reported.

The unionist Loyalist Volunteer Force claimed responsibility for the killing of an unidentified man who was found dead in the small town of Maghera.

The group has claimed four killings of Catholics in revenge for the Dec. 27 murder of its leader by a dissident Irish republican faction.

Pope Chooses 22 Cardinals

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II, again putting his conservative stamp on the Roman Catholic Church, on Sunday appointed 22 Roman Catholic cardinals, the elite group of prelates who can choose a new Pope after his death.

Cardinals are the Pope's closest advisers in Rome and around the world. Those under 80 can enter a conclave to elect a new pontiff.

With the nominations, the Pope has named about 88 percent of the cardinal electors. This increases the possibility that his successor will be a conservative in his own image who will not change controversial Church teachings.

The ceremony to consecrate the cardinals, known as a consistory, will be held Feb. 21.

The Pope said the names of two of the new cardinals would remain secret for the time being. This is done occasionally to protect the identity of cardinals, usually for political reasons.

■ The New Cardinals

James Francis Cardinal McGuire, archbishop of Chicago; James Francis Cardinal Gibbons, archbishop of Baltimore; James Michael Francis Cardinal McGuire, archbishop of Newark; James Joseph Cardinal Gleeson, archbishop of Boston; James Francis Cardinal Neary, archbishop of Denver; James Francis Cardinal Keeler, archbishop of Los Angeles; James Francis Cardinal Kavanagh, archbishop of Philadelphia; James Francis Cardinal Foley, archbishop of St. Louis; James Francis Cardinal McGuire, archbishop of Milwaukee; James Francis Cardinal Neary, archbishop of Denver; James Francis Cardinal Kavanagh, archbishop of Philadelphia; James Francis Cardinal McGuire, archbishop of St. Louis; James Francis Cardinal Neary, archbishop of Milwaukee; James Francis Cardinal Foley, archbishop of Philadelphia; James Francis Cardinal McGuire, archbishop of Milwaukee; James Francis Cardinal Neary, archbishop of Denver; James Francis Cardinal Kavanagh, archbishop of Philadelphia; James Francis Cardinal McGuire, archbishop of St. Louis; 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THE AMERICAS

Face to Face With Paula Jones, Clinton Defends Himself for 6 Hours

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — With Paula Jones staring him in the face, Bill Clinton has testified for about six hours about the sexual harassment allegations that have generated the spectacle of a U.S. president forced to explain his conduct with women.

Mr. Clinton testified Saturday in the offices of his lawyer, answering questions under oath about whether he propositioned Mrs. Jones in a Little Rock, Arkansas, hotel suite nearly seven years ago and later punished her for rejecting his advances.

Never before has a serving president been interrogated as a defendant in a court case.

The session was closed to outsiders and details were scarce because the judge in the case, Susan Webber Wright of U.S. District Court, forbade participants to discuss the session. Neither Mr. Clinton nor Mrs. Jones commented afterward, ignoring reporters who converged on Washington from as far away as Japan and Germany.

But people close to the case said before the deposition began that Mr. Clinton planned to testify that he did not remember meeting Mrs. Jones and would deny having harassed her, although he was willing to concede they may have met alone at the Excelsior Hotel in 1991.

It was a session that Mr. Clinton had vigorously fought to avoid at least until after his term expires. But in the end, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously last year that even sitting presidents could be taken to court and forced Mr. Clinton to answer the charges from



Mrs. Jones, right, and her adviser, Susan Carpenter-McMillan, facing the press before the deposition. (AP Wirephoto)

Mrs. Jones, a former low-level state clerk from Lonoke, Arkansas.

"I feel so proud to be an American, to know that this judicial system works, to know that a little girl from Arkansas is equal to the president of the United States," Mrs. Jones said before the session, according to her adviser and spokeswoman, Susan Carpenter-McMillan.

The raucous scene outside the law offices of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom was reminiscent of the

chaos that surrounds celebrity trials. As Mrs. Jones arrived in a taxi, she was immediately set upon by scores of reporters and photographers.

For his part, Mr. Clinton traveled the two blocks from the White House in a motorcade protected from the news media.

The deposition marked the first time in the case that Mr. Clinton has told his side of the story. Recorded on videotape, his answers can be played at the trial that is scheduled to begin May 27.

Mr. Clinton sat at one end of a long table in an 11th-floor conference room, with the video camera positioned at the far end, person familiar with the case said. Mrs. Jones and her six lawyers sat along one side, while a smaller contingent of lawyers for the president sat along the other.

While maintaining that he did not harass Mrs. Jones, Mr. Clinton did not intend to challenge the account of his bodyguard, a state trooper named Danny Ferguson, who has testified that

he escorted Mrs. Jones to the hotel suite that day, people close to the case said. By doing so, he would acknowledge that she may have been in the room with him, but his lawyers would rely on Mr. Ferguson's assertion that Mrs. Jones sought out the meeting, commented admiringly on Mr. Clinton's looks and afterward offered to be "the governor's girlfriend."

Even beyond the facts of the event in dispute, the questioning promised to be uncomfortable. Mrs. Jones' lawyers were looking into some of the most intimate details of his personal life, including reports from women who have testified that they had affairs or received unwelcome advances from Mr. Clinton, according to one person familiar with the questioning.

Mr. Clinton's lawyer, Robert Bennett, wanted to shield the president from the most embarrassing inquiries into his personal life and has argued that extramarital relationships are not relevant to a sexual harassment case. Mrs. Jones' lawyers wanted to prove a pattern of behavior that would bolster the credibility of her assertions.

During a deposition, lawyers are given far more latitude than they would have in a trial to explore subjects that might not be directly related to the allegations in a lawsuit.

How much of what they learned would ultimately be usable remained less clear. "If they can show that a hotel room who's an employee of the state and propositioned her, then it's more likely they could get it in," said Vicki Golden, a Washington lawyer who specializes in sexual harassment suits. "That he had some affairs? That gets dicey."

In the view of several people close to the case, the deposition removed one of the last motivations for an out-of-court settlement. Because they assume the videotape of the deposition will eventually find its way into the public domain, Mr. Clinton's advisers consider the damage to the president's reputation already done.

At this point, the consensus in Clinton camp is that the public has made its judgments about the president's behavior and therefore his best shot at minimizing the impact in the history books would be a victory at trial.

Mrs. Jones, now 31, was a \$6.35-an-hour state clerk working at the registration desk at a government-sponsored "quality management" conference at the Excelsior Hotel on May 8, 1991, when Mr. Clinton, then governor of Arkansas, arrived to give a speech. She says that she later was approached by Mr. Ferguson, who told her the governor wanted to meet her and escorted her to a hotel suite furnished as an office. She says she went along thinking she might be offered a job, but discovered otherwise once she found herself alone in a room with the governor.

According to her lawsuit, Mr. Clinton exposed himself and requested oral sex. Mrs. Jones refused and left, she said, and later told friends that the governor had made a pass at her. Mrs. Jones did not file her lawsuit until three years later, after a magazine identified a woman named "Paula" as an alleged Clinton paramour. She originally asked for \$700,000 in damages, although more recently she has offered to settle the case if she is given \$2 million and an apology.

POLITICAL NOTES

No Solid Evidence In Babbitt Inquiry

WASHINGTON — Justice Department investigators have not turned up evidence that Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt lied to Congress about a campaign fund-raising controversy, department officials have said.

The investigators are expected to recommend that Attorney General Janet Reno seek an independent counsel in the matter, they said.

Officials said the inquiry thus far has been unable to prove that Mr. Babbitt intentionally performed himself or that he had anything to lie about. The investigation has produced only unanswered questions, and that is enough to trigger an independent counsel investigation, they said.

A recommendation to Ms. Reno could be drafted by the end of the month, and she will have until Feb. 11 to make a decision.

That date would mark the end of a 90-day preliminary inquiry into the allegations against Mr. Babbitt. Under the Independent Counsel Act, Ms. Reno is obliged to seek an outside prosecutor at the end of that period unless she can show there are no reasonable grounds for further investigation.

Mr. Babbitt has offered several contradictory accounts of his role in a 1995 Interior Department decision to reject an Indian casino project. The casino was opposed by rival tribes that contributed nearly \$300,000 to the Democratic Party. (WP)

New Governor Urges Unity in Virginia

RICHMOND — James Smart Gilmore 3d called for a new era of civility and unity in Virginia politics as he was inaugurated as the state's 68th governor, climaxing a week of leg-

islative skirmishes that cemented the growing power of the Republicans.

In an 18-minute address Saturday, Mr. Gilmore broke little new ground, though with a flourish he signed an executive order creating a higher education commission and promised to veto any legislation to alter the welfare-to-work program that his Republican predecessor, George Allen, set in motion.

The new governor also hailed Virginia's 95,000 state government workers — who often were the subjects of barbs from Mr. Allen — saying they "need to know that they carry my side."

The festivities, which began with a prayer breakfast that drew more than 900 people to a downtown hotel, had a strongly religious and conservative flavor.

"Including a prayer in that speech took a lot of thought, and he is sending a signal that he is committed to spiritual and moral values," said the Reverend Jerry Falwell, who was among the guests.

While reiterating the anti-tax message that drove his campaign, Mr. Gilmore adopted a studiously mild tone in his speech. (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Laura Nichols, communications director for Representative Dick Gephardt, the House Democratic leader who last month accused President Bill Clinton of conducting a government of timid ideas and neglecting the country's major challenges, but who on Saturday had a private dinner with Al Gore at the vice president's mansion: "If you look at what Gephardt said in his speech, he was raising many of the issues that are beginning to be addressed in the president's agenda. Now that the budget is nearly balanced, we ought to be looking at how we can start going back to the issues that our party cares about. We won. We're happy." (NYT)

AMERICAN TOPICS

At Dr. King's Birthplace, A Paradoxical Legacy

Residents of Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, the street where Martin Luther King Jr. was born, have seen good times and bad.

But in recent years, many of the good things the civil rights leader accomplished have had a bad impact on the avenue.

"Dr. King's legacy, if you will, is the paradox of Auburn Avenue," said Alexis Scott-Reeves, who works on the avenue.

"Desegregation, which we sorely needed, led to a fracturing of the community. What has happened has been good overall. But for dear Auburn Avenue, it has left a chink in its shining armor."

Auburn Avenue was dubbed "Sweet Auburn" by the early civil rights leader John Wesley Dobbs because of the opportunities it afforded blacks even in the days of strict segregation.

"It was the yellow brick road for black dreamers in the South in the 1930s and '40s," said Gary Pomerantz, whose book "Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn" chronicles Atlanta's racial, social and political history.

It was a place where blacks could

own businesses, get a good education at nearby black colleges and prosper. There were black-owned nightclubs where such musical greats as Cab Calloway and Duke Ellington performed. There were big churches and fancy restaurants. "Auburn Avenue," said a former Atlanta mayor, Maynard Jackson, who is Mr. Dobbs' grandson, "was a living lab for Martin Luther King Jr.'s dreams."

But in the 1960s, as the civil rights movement headed by Mr. King began to realize those dreams — and blacks became able to move and work where they wanted — many left, and the avenue began to decline.

"It was," said Mr. Pomerantz, "a necessary though regrettable price for freedom."

Now, the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, built near his birthplace, are the city's most popular attractions, although visitors rarely linger.

Atlanta is still looking for ways to build on the name of King, who is honored across the United States on Monday.

Short Takes

Not surprisingly, the highest automobile accident rates, per mile driven, involve teenagers and drivers 70 or older. But while teenagers' accidents are often related to speeding or nighttime driving, older drivers tend to drive more slowly and avoid night driving, said Larry Cook, who analyzes traffic problems for the Utah state government.

The big problem facing the elderly,

Republicans Forgo Abortion Penalty

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

INDIAN WELLS, California — After an unusually passionate debate that amplified tensions in the party, the Republican National Committee has spurned a proposal to withhold money from candidates who do not oppose late-term abortion. It was the first big defeat in nearly two decades of the party's most ardent opponents of abortion on a major proposal before the national committee.

Committee members, by a vote of 114 to 43, adopted a substitute proposal that condemned the late-term abortion procedure but eliminated the earlier language that had made opposition a prerequisite for party funds. The adopted resolution says that the party "commits to banning this heinous procedure from America forever."

There was no vote on the original resolution. Republican leaders at the party's winter meeting here had moved aggressively to defeat the measure, fearing that the resolution would drive centrists from the party.

In a dramatic gesture, Representative Henry Hyde of Illinois, the most outspoken foe of abortion in Congress, was summoned here from Washington by party leaders to warn that the resolution was politically unwise and could threaten the party's hold on Congress.

"We need more than resolutions and manifestoes in vain against partial-birth abortion," Mr. Hyde said before the vote. "We need laws. We need to pass laws. We need converts. We need to convince people that human life is precious."

The matter is so sensitive that the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, did not take a position on the resolution. But Mr. Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, asserted that the resolution had been "a tactical mistake" that undermined the party's efforts to put Democrats on the defensive on the issue.

Tim Lambert, the Republican national committee man from Texas who proposed the resolution, said its failure demonstrated the triumph of pragmatism over principle and could mean trou-

ble for Republicans in the midterm elections this year. Mr. Lambert said the people who opposed his resolution "are going to have to go home and say, 'I'm pro-life but I voted that we continue to give money to candidates who support infanticide.' That may sell inside the Beltway but out in the hinterlands I don't think it's going to work."

In partial-birth abortion, a surgeon pulls the fetus out of the birth canal first, punctures the head, removes the brain and collapses the skull so the fetus can be removed vaginally.

In a two-hour debate Friday night, party members agreed that late-term abortion was an unacceptable procedure.

But they disagreed on whether the national party should punish candidates who do not oppose it.

Betsy DeVos, chairwoman of the Michigan Republican Party, offered the substitute resolution. But she remained critical of Republican elected officials who have not opposed late-term abortions, calling on Governor Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey, in particular, "to support the ban on this awful procedure."

The governor vetoed a state ban on late-term abortions.

But the party chairman from Colorado, Steve Curtis, spoke in favor of the original resolution, calling its rejection "hypocrisy of the highest order."

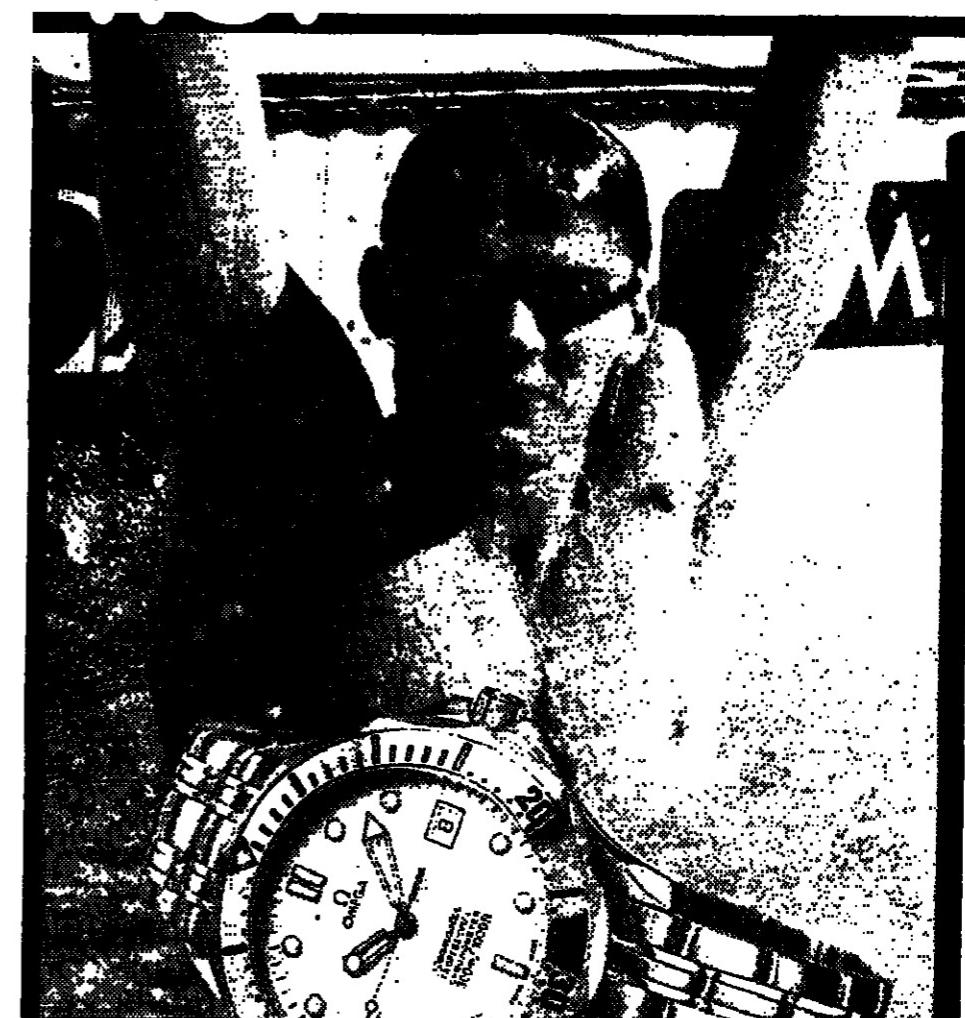
Away From Politics

• A psychiatrist who received a one-day extension to recommend whether Theodore Kaczynski is competent to stand trial has completed her report on the Unabomber suspect, the court clerk at Sacramento, California, said. (AP)

• The number of women who become pregnant unintentionally dropped by 16 percent from 1987 to 1994, according to a study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute in New York. (WP)

• Timothy McVeigh's attorneys have appealed his conviction on murder and conspiracy charges in the Oklahoma City bombing, citing pretrial publicity and alleging errors by the judge. (WP)

Alexander Popov's Choice



Seaman Professional
Automatic chronometer.
Water-resistant to 300m/1000ft.
OMEGA - Swiss made since 1848.

Omega, my
choice Alex Popov

OMEGA
The sign of excellence

ASIA/PACIFIC

U.S. Broaches, but Puts Off, an Easing of Sanctions on Chinese Military

By Steven Lee Myers
New York Times Service

BEIJING — On the eve of his departure for Asia last week, Defense Secretary William Cohen pressed the Clinton administration to let a U.S. weapons maker sell spare parts to China, despite a ban on sales of military equipment imposed after the 1989 massacre of Tiananmen Square demonstrators, administration officials say.

Mr. Cohen did not advocate a general lifting of the sanctions, the officials said, but rather suggested making an exception in the case of Sikorsky Aircraft, which makes Black Hawk helicopters.

Sikorsky, which sold 24 unarmed Black Hawks to the Chinese military in 1984, has been lobbying the administration to allow it to sell replacement engines and other parts to Beijing, arguing that these should no longer be considered military equipment prohibited by the sanctions.

In discussions leading up to Mr. Cohen's three-and-a-half-day visit to China, which began

Saturday evening, the administration rejected the idea as premature, and the defense secretary agreed to support that decision, the officials said, speaking on condition they not be identified.

The officials said, though, that the administration was considering ways to improve relations with Beijing and that easing the sanctions was among them, raising the prospect that at least some of them could be lifted, possibly in time for President Bill Clinton's visit to China this year. But the officials emphasized that no decisions had been reached.

One official said a decision at this time to lift even slightly, the sanctions on any equipment that would be used by the Chinese Army would provoke too great an outcry on Capitol Hill and elsewhere, overshadowing whatever benefits the United States received in exchange.

"That's a whole lot of heat to take for some spare parts," the official said.

Mr. Cohen declined through his spokesman, Kenneth Bacon, to talk about his discussion of

the sanctions, saying the administration's internal deliberations should remain private.

In an interview during his 12-day tour of Asia, Mr. Cohen said Beijing had to do more to improve human rights, among other things, before Washington could lift any sanctions. But he also made it clear that the sanctions, now nearly a decade old, would not go on indefinitely.

Asked about the possibility of lifting them, he said, "Sometime in the future it may be possible, but I don't foresee it at this particular time."

Mr. Cohen's willingness to consider an exception to the sanctions underscored the extent to which he is prepared to find ways to improve relations with Beijing in general and its military in particular.

During his visit to China, which includes meetings with senior military leaders and President Jiang Zemin, Mr. Cohen is seeking to increase contacts and build confidence between the U.S. and Chinese militaries.

His Chinese counterpart, Chi Haotian, and he

are scheduled to sign a document Monday called the Military Maritime Consultation Agreement. The agreement — essentially a set of rules governing contacts between the countries' navies — is meant to avoid unintended clashes at sea.

General Chi said last week that exchanges of military officers, among other steps, were already easing tensions, the official newspaper China Daily reported. There are other signs of improvements. A U.S. C-17 cargo plane from Japan flew into Beijing on Friday, carrying 40 tons of clothing, medicine and other relief supplies for victims of the earthquake that killed 50 people and left thousands without homes in Hebei Province, north of Beijing.

Mr. Cohen's visit is part of the administration's efforts to improve relations between the countries. The defense secretary is the first cabinet member to visit Beijing since Mr. Clinton and President Jiang Zemin met in Washington in October. But while administration officials have described a gradual improvement in relations, profound dif-

ferences remain, and one of the greatest, as far as the Chinese are concerned, is the sanctions.

Cohen Welcomed in Beijing

Defense Minister Chi welcomed Mr. Cohen to Beijing with a military honors ceremony Sunday and an assurance that China wants a "strategic partnership" with the United States. The Associated Press reported.

"China will do its very best in order to achieve the goal establishing a constructive, strategic partnership between the two countries," General Chi said at a dinner in the Great Hall of the People.

Mr. Cohen spent most of Sunday resting and preparing for a full day of meetings Monday and for a visit to an air defense command center.

At the dinner, he said that Mr. Jiang, in his visit to Washington, "certainly reflected a degree of harmony that our countries now enjoy."

"But harmony involves more than simple ceremony and celebrations," Mr. Cohen said. "It involves action as well."

BRIEFLY

Mahatma Descendant to Run

BOMBAY — A great-grandson of Mohandas Gandhi, India's independence hero, will contest coming national elections for the Socialist Party.

Tushar Gandhi, 38, a graphics designer from Bombay, announced his decision to join the party and has also won the backing of several other political parties.

"I believe in working with grass-roots political workers, and the Socialist Party gives me that opportunity," he said. "I have a good chance of winning." (APF)

UN Aide Cautions Cambodia

PHOM PENH — The Cambodian government has given no sign that it has begun investigating the execution of more than 40 royalist supporters after the July overthrow of co-Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, a UN right official said Sunday.

The official warned that the failure to investigate the killings cast doubt on the possibility that Cambodia's next election, in July, could be free and fair.

"We have not received any indication from the government that they were moving on investigation and prosecution," said Thomas Hammarberg, the UN secretary-general's special representative for human rights in Cambodia. (Reuters)

Manila Opposition Campaigns

MANILA — The leading opposition party in the Philippines opened the campaign Sunday of a former film star as its presidential candidate.

"Once and for all we can get rid of a government of corruption," Joseph Estrada said to supporters. "We begin the fight against economic failure and fiscal excess, against poverty, helplessness and hopelessness."

The 61-year-old former action-movie hero and current vice president continues to top opinion polls in the race to succeed President Fidel Ramos. (Reuters)

East Java Calm After Looting Over Food Costs

Reuters

MUNCAR, Indonesia — East Java Province, the scene of widespread looting last week over rising food prices, appeared calm Sunday apart from a few small towns where some shops stayed shut and troops patrolled the streets.

Mobs looted shops and supermarkets in the staunchly Muslim province of 35 million people last week over rising prices, a legacy of Indonesia's worst economic crisis in decades. On Sunday, troops guarded some shops, especially in Muncar, a port town.

Many shopkeepers in Muncar put signs on their doors to distinguish Muslim stores from those owned by ethnic Chinese, residents said. Indonesia's minority Chinese are a frequent target during civil strife because of their strong influence over the private sector.

Analysts worry that the violence in East Java and panic food-buying, as in Jakarta recently, could spread following fresh economic reforms announced Thursday. The new International Monetary Fund package calls for zero economic growth in fiscal 1998-99 (April to March) and 20 percent inflation.

The financial woes prompted the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce to urge foreign banks to roll over debts and write off interest payments, the official Amara press agency said Sunday.

The crisis has also clouded the future of President Suharto, although analysts said Sunday that he should not be counted out.



An Indonesian woman holding out her hand as she makes it to the head of a line of people waiting for subsidized sugar in a Jakarta market.

FASHION

Givenchy and McQueen Opt for Zen

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — What is the most shocking thing that a fashion bad boy could do to detonate the spring couture season? Swap wild aggression for a zen-like calm.

In his Givenchy collection Sunday, Alexander McQueen left behind the Icarus wings, skeletal bones and croaking ravens that had made previous shows a *dense macabre*. Instead, models in simplified cloths in soft, pretty colors walked through a Japanese pebble garden among miniature trees, water lilies and splashing water. The calm and occasionally beautiful collection suggested that after an era of costume party clothes, the young Turks may be thinking about couture's potential clients.

"There is no reason to be angry — I'm over it, and I wanted Japan because it is clean and mentally calm," said McQueen, who had transformed himself with an elegant tailcoat when he led the heads of his couture studios out for a bow.

He had put them through their paces. The overriding impression was how hard McQueen had worked to turn his signatures — sleek tailoring, jump suits, linear dresses and cowls — into something special. That included witty touches like butterflies trapped in the transparent acrylic shoe heels and a glass-bowl purse with goldfish.

Each passage started with a simple silhouette thrown on to a Japanese screen. But when the outfit emerged, there would be an origami of pleats, folded on a skirt, jacket or fitted coat, or a slender dress made from glass-bead fringing or a kimono coat from patchwork squares. The most striking use of the Japanese theme was a tiny fan-collared bolero over a simple jump suit.

Inevitably some clothes got too complicated, with raffia shoulder pieces here and fish patterns there. But they were noble failures, balanced by the cute candy-pink client-peaser — a fan-peaked skirt under a brocade jacket.

Japonisme originally meant modernism. But a bead-fringed parasol or peacock kimono embroideries seemed uncomfortably close to John Galliano's recent chinoiserie theme. Given the show site, among the graphic skyscrapers of La Defense, it would be good to see McQueen let go of the past for a resolutely modern take on couture.

Another of fashion's hard men softened up — but don't imagine that Thierry Mugler abandoned his signature hourglass silhouette. Instead, he re-worked his icy glamour as soft sculpt-



A glass fringe Japanese-inspired dress by Alexander McQueen, whose Givenchy show swapped costume party clothes for a calm and occasionally beautiful collection.

tures, making draped dresses that turned on a compass point to trace the body. At its best, the show had precision seaming on a sculpted suit or a brief bolero was scythed to a curve. But sometimes what the designer called an "exercise in style" looked like the satellite silhouettes that Pierre Cardin put into orbit 30 years ago.

Mugler called it "attitude couture," meaning a state of mind that can accept a

molded metallic corset top or a flimsy dress suspended from rings piercing the model's nipples. You could also call it a mind-set — and a very Parisian one — where the creed is dressing up, not down, and sexual allure is encapsulated in body-conscious tailoring. The nearest the collection came to sloppy sportswear was a pair of rapper jeans. Transparent acrylic shoes, flat silver beading, dangling crystal stalactites and porcupine quill decoration reinforced the impression of cosmic couture for a particular clientele. But there she was! The statuesque Shakira Khashoggi and her husband, Adnan, raved over the "very special."

After the fashion architects come the decorators. Emanuel Ungaro used all his couture skills to suggest that nothing but a scattering of rosebuds came between body and clothes. Light, super light, were sheer pants embroidered with flowers or a lace dress under a wisp of a cardigan. The ethereal quality was emphasized by the iridescent fabrics, the crystal beading and the bangles of multicolored beads.

Yet paradoxically, the strongest part of the show was when the intricately worked and magically executed effects were replaced by the smooth surface of a dress that slithered in drapes across the body, the swooping cowl neckline filled with a corsage of tiny beads. The most awkward was the daytime skirt length, which fell bias-cut to mid-calf, begging women to switch to slender pants.

The show's overall effect was of a honeyed 18th century sweetness: curving brocade jackets (updated with leather pants) and a pointillist patchwork of a coat over an airy dress — executed with fairy fingers of workmanship. But looking front row at Marie Chantal of Greece and her sister Alexandra Von Furstenberg, their loveliness framed by simple gray and black tailoring, you realize how difficult it is to make fashion decoration seem relevant to the modern fashion world.

Dominique Sirois is a modest modernist — meaning that he makes a collection of conventional client-pleasing clothes, but gives that a millennium boost with gleaming fabric, angular asymmetric cuts and flat silver beads. Typically, a glacial blue cocktail dress might have graphic embroidery at the hem. Or a column of lilac satin would have silver beading at the bodice. And the daywear would be a pant suit cut on the bias.

The result? A sophisticated and youthful sexiness, that never dips into vulgarity — even when slits are high-rise and lace inserts are sheer.

FROM MY GRANDMOTHER'S BEDSIDE:

Sketches of Postwar Tokyo
By Norma Field. 205 pages. \$24.95.
University of California Press.

POLITE LIES:

On Being a Woman Caught Between Cultures
By Kyoko Mori. 258 pages. \$22.50.
Henry Holt.

Reviewed by Janice P. Nimura

JAPAN and the United States face each other across the Pacific like mirrors, an inexhaustible source of cultural reflection for those who have spent time in both places. The best of these chroniclers tease out truths that illuminate both sides; others just end up writing plaintive me-essays, more self-therapy than sensitive analysis. Norma Field and Kyoko Mori share an unusual perspective, each having left behind childhood in Japan for an academic career in the American Midwest. But there the similarities end.

Field, now professor of East Asian studies at the University of Chicago, grew up as the cherished jewel of her Japanese mother's family, though her over-sized American G.I. father made the neighborhood star. Her return to Tokyo in the summer of 1995 to care for her stroke-stricken grandmother coincided with the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. "From My Grandmother's Beside" is a notebook of vignettes, an eclectic mixture of grief and family history, daily routine and the collective memory of a troubled nation.

Intimate neighborhood details — bent old women picking up fallen leaves with their fingers, the bakery with three varieties of sweet-bean buns — expand into explorations of what it means to be Japanese in the postwar era. At the center,

living metaphor, lies Field's bedridden grandmother, speechless and paralyzed, a catalyst for the musings of her culture-shattering granddaughter.

Obachama, as the family calls its matriarch, is one of Japan's graying legions, part of "the long decrescendo from the baby boom." She raised her children in pre-nuclear Japan, when "ghost stories were a cooling device before air conditioning."

Now, though, everyone is busy: busy working, studying, drinking, playing video games, fighting traffic. "Busy learning the pleasures of the economic miracle, or rather learning to register as pleasures the experiences it has afforded. All the while blunting the intuition that there might be no relaxing after a miracle." As a weary nation discovers alienation, "the dull twin of sleek and speedy prosperity," Obachama's silence becomes Japan's. Like "In the Realm of a Dying Emperor," Field's acclaimed 1991 examination of postwar attitudes, "From My Grandmother's Beside" is full of meditations on nuclear testing, responsibility for the war, and the elaborate net of duty that ensnares the average Japanese citizen. Also like the earlier book, these vignettes are sometimes frustratingly opaque — sufficiently clear for the author's personal consumption, as in a diary, but stopping just short of clarity for the rest of us. Paragraphs twist back on themselves and require several readings, and portentious headings ("Temples and Social Realism," "The Expressivity of Extremes") can distract from Field's quietly powerful observations.

Affection always underlines Field's criticisms of her native land. Mori, on the other hand, is at best deeply ambivalent about Japan, at worst in screaming flight from her troubled Kobe childhood. At the age of 12 Mori lost her mother to suicide; within months her father was remarried to a petty woman

whom Mori portrays as a classic evil stepmother. After years of physical and emotional abuse at their hands, Mori escaped to the United States with a scholarship. She now teaches creative writing in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Extending the themes of her earlier memoir, "The Dream of Water," Mori offers a series of essays divided by broad topic — language, rituals, bodies, tears, safety — and linked by her distrust and fear of "polite lies," the social lubricant of small insincerities. In Wisconsin, these are relatively benign; in Japan, Mori finds the conventions engraved in the language menacing.

Distrust makes her prickly, and much of her writing shrill with old hatreds: "Life in Japan resembles the harshest interpretation of a religious faith: the Koran or the sword, either you are with Christ or against him, either you join the sheltering umbrella of Japanese security or you have nothing."

Liberated in Wisconsin, Mori takes a hard line in reaction to a frightened childhood plagued by bewildering, unspoken codes. Whether discussing feminism or family, her father's cruelty or her own failed marriage, she sees no distinction between a compromise and a sacrifice of personal freedom. Her rigidity often leads her into dead ends: She wants to be comforted but refuses the platitudes that are all most people have to offer.

With lives divided equally between Japan and America, Field and Mori are foreigners in neither, uniquely qualified to write at an intersection many have visited but few have truly understood. Where Field moves from intimate detail to piercing cultural insight, though, Mori turns inward on her own camouflaged anger.

Janice P. Nimura, a book editor in Tokyo and a regular reviewer for the *Daily Yomiuri*, wrote this for The Washington Post.

BOOKS

gins in the history of such events, more than four boards clear of Alan Sonsteg, Alan Osofsky, Bjorn Fallenius and Albert and Jeanne Rahmy.

Wildavsky and Arvedon could be called partners-in-law, for they have each won a national title with Allan Falk, who is a lawyer and bridge author. Wildavsky, whose victory with Falk came in the Blue Ribbon Pairs, sat South on the diagrammed board-a-match deal and played four hearts.

West led the spade ace, a reasonable but fatal choice, and continued the suit. After winning in dummy South led a trump, winning with the nine when East played low. The diamond queen was led for a successful ruffing finesse, and when it won the jack

was led. If West had played ruffed a third diamond with a trump honor. But the jack was covered with the king and the heart jack was used to ruff.

No second heart was led and East chose to put up his ace and play a third round. South won, drew the missing trump, and cashed two diamond tricks. This reduced the dummy to a winning spade and the king-queen of clubs, so he was able to cross to the spade winner and score a club trick at the finish to make his

chances but failed to handle the bad trump split and finished down two.

NORTH (D)

♦ A 9 5 3 2

♦ Q J 10 6 5

♦ —

♦ K Q 10 6 5 3

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♦



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INTERNATIONAL

As Israelis Toil, Arafat Waits

Palestinians Pin Hopes on Meetings With Clinton This Week

By Serge Schmemann
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — While Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his ministers have been working overtime to prepare an arsenal of claims, resolutions, strategies and demands for his meeting with President Bill Clinton this week, Yasser Arafat has mostly been waiting.

That might give the impression that after decades of eluding Israeli hit men and withstanding American ostracism, the old survivor has found himself outmaneuvered in the peace, with nothing left save a slim hope that the Americans might rescue him.

Indeed, Mr. Arafat and his Palestinian Authority are in a tough predicament. Four and a half years after the Oslo agreements were signed, an Israeli government is back to treating the Pales-

tinians as a conquered nation, and Mr. Arafat as a closet terrorist. The big debate in Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet is over what the Palestinians must do, and what the Israelis must keep.

The debate reflects the long-standing conviction of the Israeli right that the Jews have no need, indeed no right, to

NEWS ANALYSIS

cede the Land of Israel to Palestinians, or to trust the security of Jews to anyone. That was the essence of Mr. Netanyahu's victorious election oratory.

There is no question that the election failure of his partners in Israel's Labor Party 19 months ago was a major blow to Mr. Arafat, or that he is dismayed by the direction the Oslo process has taken.

"We urge the American administration to stand up and tell Netanyahu, 'Enough,' because otherwise all that will be left of the peace process is memories."

If the process breaks down, said Abu Ala, the chief negotiator of the second Oslo agreement, "Arafat can do many things. If there is no progress, he can freeze the situation as it is, with no war, no peace; occupation and resistance.

ing around the world to rally support. Palestinian television regularly shows him at some Third World airport, repeating a mantra: "I am not asking for the moon. All I want is to implement accurately and honestly what has been agreed upon."

Likewise, Mr. Arafat's lieutenants continue issuing the ringing statements and veiled threats that accompany every tangle with Mr. Netanyahu. Such Ericka, a senior negotiator, declared last week: "We urge the American administration to stand up and tell Netanyahu, 'Enough,' because otherwise all that will be left of the peace process is memories."

And if this doesn't work, he won't stand in the way of resistance."

Yet, it would be foolhardy to assume that Mr. Arafat would just sit back passively. And one factor in his favor is that there is still a solid constituency for the

Oslo process among Palestinians, Israelis and Americans.

This month, Israelis and Palestinians conducted their first-ever joint public-opinion poll. The survey, taken by Palestinians from the Jerusalem Media and

Communications Center and Israelis from the Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Research at Tel Aviv University, found that a majority in both groups support the Oslo process — 59 percent of the Israelis questioned and 68 percent of Palestinians. When asked what is the most important obstacle to the peace process, almost all the Palestinians predictably cited the Israeli side.

But Israelis also tended to find fault with the Israeli side, with 27 percent listing Mr. Netanyahu and his government as the major obstacle, compared with 9 percent who cited terrorism and 9 percent who listed Arab attitudes.

That, perhaps, explains why it is Mr. Netanyahu who feels compelled to marshal piles of arguments for Mr. Clinton, while Mr. Arafat is content to simply wait for his own meeting with the president this week.

Perhaps for the first time, Mr. Arafat is approaching the White House as an equal supplicant. Until now, the Israelis were friends, welcome at the high table, while Mr. Arafat was ever on probation, excused only so long as he behaved and delivered. This time, Mr. Clinton is giving Mr. Netanyahu only equal time.

That may not resolve Mr. Arafat's problems, but those who have met with him in recent days have come away with the clear sense that the chairman and his lieutenants have placed high hopes in the trip.

"For the first time in many years they feel that the American policy is leaning more toward them than the Israelis," said Danny Rubinstein, a veteran reporter on Palestinian affairs for the newspaper Haaretz.

That modest sense of common cause, of course, is not blind faith. Mr. Arafat and his senior advisers are acutely aware of the political equations in Washington and Jerusalem. They are keenly aware that frustration with Mr. Netanyahu in the White House does not spell the end of Israel's deep support in the United States.

"There are high expectations for the meeting," said Yossi Beilin, a liberal Israeli politician who recently met with Mr. Arafat. "That doesn't mean they're optimistic. Arafat knows about Congress, about Al Gore, about the need to get re-elected and to get the vote of the Jews. But he hopes the Americans will say what they think about Netanyahu. He hopes they'll demand a second redeployment. He believes this is the last chance."

Mr. Arafat has no real choice now but to follow the Americans. Unlike many Israelis, the Palestinians believe Mr. Netanyahu will be able to serve out his four-year term. They are also convinced that Mr. Netanyahu is maneuvering to kill the Oslo process and to get American support for his own plan, which is to jettison the step-by-step approach of the Oslo agreements and to plunge instead into all-or-nothing final status talks.

For the Palestinians, that is a non-starter. The entire premise of the Oslo arrangement was to build trust gradually, transferring more and more land to Palestinian control until both sides were ready to attack the hardest nuts — Jerusalem, refugees, borders, water. In the absence of trust, the Palestinians see no point in going to a final settlement.

Thus, for the Palestinians it is more important now to have the Americans maintain at least the rudiments of the Oslo structure, which, to the Palestinians, means refusing to abandon the staged withdrawals.

Why? Because Mr. Arafat knows that if Mr. Netanyahu succeeds in abandoning the interim steps, there is no chance the Palestinians will get the state that is, for a single-minded Mr. Arafat, the essential goal. But Mr. Netanyahu cannot kill the process without the complicity of the Americans.

And as long as the Americans support Oslo, they, and the Europeans, may not object when Mr. Arafat proclaims a state on May 4, 1999 — the date the Oslo agreement set for a final settlement.

No Cuban Visas For Miami's Press

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — On the weekend before Pope John Paul II's arrival in Cuba, the government had not issued visas for at least 20 foreign journalists.

The Pope's visit to the Caribbean island begins Wednesday. Cuban officials said over the weekend that more than 3,000 foreign journalists had received visas, including three from the U.S. government's Voice of America.

"I am not going to tell you how many visas we did not approve but look around, everyone is here. All the networks are here," Cuba's international press director, Frank Gonzalez, said in Havana.

While the Catholic Church is clearly the biggest beneficiary of the Pope's visit, religious leaders and observers say, other denominations will also gain to the extent that the pilgrimage will raise the profile of religion.

But one of the most compelling aspects of the papal visit is the fact that two septuagenarian leaders, each a shrewd and charismatic revolutionary, will meet face to face.

To a large extent, what is being played

Cabinet Delays West Bank Decision

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli cabinet on Sunday delayed any decision on how much land to give up in a West Bank withdrawal until after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu returns from a meeting with President Bill Clinton on Tuesday.

The United States had been pressing Israel to announce a speedy and significant withdrawal at the White House meeting.

But Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom said the cabinet ministers had not made any decision on percentages at Sunday's meeting.

A statement said that after Mr. Netanyahu returned, the cabinet would set a "ceiling" of the maximum amount of West Bank land it would turn over to the Pal-

estinians in the promised withdrawal. It added that the withdrawal would only take place if the Palestinians fulfilled their obligations.

The cabinet last week issued a 12-page list of demands, most dealing with security, that it said the Palestinians would have to meet before Israel went ahead with the withdrawal, promised in an accord signed by Mr. Netanyahu's government.

The Palestinians have accused Israel of trying to evade its U.S.-backed pledge to carry out their withdrawal by mid-1998.

Mr. Netanyahu, who faces serious opposition within his cabinet to any handover of land, has said he wants to carry out just one withdrawal and move directly to talks on a final peace settlement.

Iraqi Envoy, Wife, and 6 Others Slain

The Motive Is Unclear For Killings in Amman

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

AMMAN, Jordan — A top Iraqi diplomat, his wife and six other people were stabbed to death in a villa in the capital just after a meal marking the end of their daily Ramadan fast, officials said Sunday.

The motive for the Saturday night slayings was unclear, but Jordanian security officials believed the target may have been the owner of the villa, an Iraqi businessman who reportedly had run companies for President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The diplomat had been invited to the home for dinner.

Six Iraqis and two Egyptians were killed in the attack, first disclosed by the Iraqi government, which identified the diplomat as Hikmat Hajou. Officials in Jordan said he was the deputy chief of mission at the Iraqi Embassy.

An activist with the Jordan-based Iraqi National Accord, an opposition group, told The Associated Press by phone that Mr. Hajou was a career diplomat who had been in Jordan for about three years.

The activist ruled out involvement by Iraqi exiles in Jordan, saying he believed the attacks were the result of internal Iraqi feuding. He spoke on the condition his name not be used.

In a separate development, Iraq said Sunday that it would release all Jordanian prisoners in its jails and immediately halt legal proceedings against Jordanians in its courts. There are believed to be 60 to 100 Jordanians in Iraqi jails.

The official Iraqi news agency INA said Mr. Saddam had ordered their release after a meeting with a leading Jordanian opposition figure, Leith Shubaelat.

The stabbing occurred in the Amman suburb of Rabiyyeh at the home of Sami George Thomas, Jordanian security of officials said.

Mr. Thomas, who was killed in the attack, is believed to have had business ties to Mr. Saddam and to his eldest son, Odai, for a decade or so. He has lived in Jordan for several years.

One of the two Egyptians worked for Mr. Thomas, and the other was a friend of the employee. An Egyptian woman survived the attack and was hospitalized.

In its statement disclosing the attack, the Iraqi government described the killings as "a heinous crime" and demanded an immediate investigation by Jordan.

Relations between Iraq and Jordan soured in December, when Iraq executed four Jordanian students convicted of smuggling \$850 worth of auto parts.

The undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, Saad Faisal, and a senior Iraqi security official were sent to Jordan to pursue the matter with Jordanian officials, the statement said.

"Iraq is deeply concerned about the repeated and unprecedented attacks on its diplomats in Jordan," the statement said.

(AP, Reuters)

IRAQ: 'Jihad' on Sanctions

Continued from Page 1

day added a new element to the tension already surrounding the arrival Monday of the chief United Nations arms inspector, Richard Butler.

In two days of talks with Iraqi officials, Mr. Butler is expected to ask for unrestricted access for his inspectors and an end to standoffs over the composition of inspection teams, which Iraqis say have a disproportionate number of Americans.

On Saturday, Mr. Saddam threw the talks with Mr. Butler into new territory by threatening to stop inspections altogether within six months if economic sanctions, imposed after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, were not lifted. The UN Security Council ruled after the Gulf War that the sanctions would stay in place until all weapons of mass destruction and the means of making them were eliminated from Iraq.

Baghdad has said numerous times that it has met the requirements. United Nations inspectors say they are far from closing the books.

Even Iraq's most sympathetic friends on the Security Council, the Russians, French and Chinese, would be very hard pressed to defend Iraq if the inspectors were expelled.

Such an act would put Baghdad in an incontestable violation of Security Council resolutions that allow military enforcement. The question that remains, however, is whether the United States would return to the council for explicit authorization to attack Iraq — and whether other council members and foreign capitals in general would approve military strikes. The Arab world is already ill-disposed toward the United States because of problems with the Middle East peace accords.

Furthermore, Iraqi targets would be difficult to choose without assuming many civilian casualties. Iraqis say, because government installations are scattered around Baghdad.

Hitting targets in some weapons pro-

grams would also have a needle-in-a-haystack quality. In the case of biological agents, experts in Europe and the United States say, large quantities of germs and toxins can be manufactured in very small laboratories with fewer than a dozen people.

■ UN Is United, Albright Asserts

Brian Knowlton of the International Herald Tribune reported from Washington:

Rejecting suggestions that the Iraqi leader has driven a wedge between members of the UN Security Council who disagree on how to deal with him, Secretary of State Albright said that those "who think they can defend Sad-

dam Hussein are basically finding it harder and harder."

Rather than gaining from the recent crisis, she said, Mr. Saddam had drawn more international attention to the "fact he may have biological and chemical weapons, by acting as if he can't deal with an inspection that is going to look at it."

While the United Nations has said that its sanctions will end when Baghdad complies with all the Gulf War resolu-

tions, Bill Richardson, the U.S. represen-

tative to the United Nations, offered no hope that that would happen soon.

"There are no prospects for the sanctions being lifted," he said. "There is no prospect, there is no one country saying sanctions have to be lifted."

Iraq has complained that such assertions leave it with little incentive to cooperate.

But Mrs. Albright, while expressing U.S. exasperation, also called for patience. "It's very important for us to pursue the course that we're on," she said.

She said there was no "time frame" for possible use of military force.

"We are determined and patient to make sure that Saddam carries out what he must," Mrs. Albright said.

Britain on Friday sent the aircraft carrier Invincible to the Gulf from the Mediterranean to back up diplomatic pressure on Iraq. But the British defense secretary, George Robertson, dismissed Mr. Saddam's speech as "bluster."

BRIEFLY

Canadian Blackout Lingers for 700,000

The Associated Press

TORONTO — About 700,000 people in Canada remained without power Sunday in the wake of the country's worst ice storm in memory.

In Quebec, worst hit by the black-

out, 250,000 households and busi-

nesses were still waiting to be re-

connected, and Hydro-Quebec said

many would have to remain a third week without power. In some rural areas, the power could remain shut down into February.

(Reuters)

Colonel John Milton said hundreds of the traditional hunters had besieged the town for two weeks.

The Kamajor oppose the junta that toppled President Ahmad Tejan Kabba in May. Diamonds are the junta's main source of income.

(Reuters)

Accord in Guyana

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Guyana's president and the main opposition leader have signed an agreement to end an impasse over last month's presidential elections.

Under the accord, made public Sunday, President Janet Jagan and former President Hugh Desmond Hoyte of the People's National Congress agreed to end street demonstrations and to institute constitutional reform that will pave the way for a new election within three years.

They also agreed to an independent audit of the results of the Dec. 15 elections won by Mrs. Jagan's People's Progressive Party/Civic alliance.

(Reuters)

CUBA: Embracing Catholicism, Country Prepares for Pope's Visit

Continued from Page 1

Christmas a national holiday and ran a Christmas message from the Pope on the front page of the Communist Party newspaper Granma.

Cardinal Jaime Ortega was given a half-hour on television last week to address the nation.

In a six-hour televised appearance Friday night, President Fidel Castro urged Cubans to attend the Pope's public events, including Masses in Havana and three other towns. Fleets of government buses will be used to transport Cubans to the Masses and a replica of the Virgin of Charity, Cuba's patron saint, is being passed around the country to each Catholic church for worship ceremonies.

The Pope's trip will most certainly bring a clarion call for the Cuban state to grant a broader role to religion in society.

"We have a lot to teach the people, but we do not want privileges," said Orlando Marquez, director of the Catholic Church press office. "We want our place in society recognized."

Mr. Castro hopes to benefit from the pontiff's presence by gaining renewed legitimacy internationally for himself and

the country's communist system while conveying the message that Cuba is opening up to the world, which in the long run could attract needed foreign investment.

More importantly, Cuban officials here said, Mr. Castro is hoping the Pope will criticize the long-standing U.S. economic embargo against Cuba.</p

EDITORIALS/OPTION

Herald Tribune
INTERNATIONAL
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST**Japan Isn't Cooperating**

No one can yet measure how much impact Asia's financial crisis will have on the U.S. economy, but the political fallout is already beginning. Members of Congress are lining up to attack the IMF-led bailouts, from both the left and the right. And as the U.S. trade deficit soars — as it surely will this year — attacks on Clinton administration trade policy, and on the principles of open trade, also are certain to escalate.

Some of this cannot be helped; some increase in the deficit, and some accompanying political friction, is inevitable. As the currencies of South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia lose value, U.S. goods there become more expensive, while their goods become cheaper in America. Moreover, those hard-hit countries are now heading into recessions that will leave their consumers less able to buy American or local products. Their only hope of recovery is to sell more to customers who are still relatively flush — that is, to Americans.

Their increased exports to America are by no means all bad; U.S. consumers will have more goods available at lower prices, and that will help keep inflation in check. But it will lead to job losses for some American workers. Fortunately, Southeast Asia's economies, and even South Korea's, are small enough compared with the U.S. economy that the effects will be small.

Japan is another story. As the world's second-largest economy, its trade has a more measurable effect. And, unlike the reeling nations of Southeast Asia, it has a choice. Yet it, too, is in the process of seeking to export its way out of trouble, relying on America to shoulder the burden both of Japan's problems and of the rest of Asia's. This cannot be allowed to happen.

Japan's "bubble" economy burst at the beginning of this decade, as over-inflated stock and real estate prices came crashing down. Since then Japan has compiled one long record of economic mismanagement. Bad loans were swept under the rug instead of being confronted honestly. Deregulation of Japan's closed market was re-

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

An Indian Dynasty

A paradox of India's democracy is that the long-ruling Congress Party has survived less by keeping faith with its ideals than by keeping alive the dynastic flame lit by the founding prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Now once again in a moment of trial the party has called on a Nehru heir, the reclusive Indian-born widow of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, to try to reclaim power.

The spectacle of Mrs. Gandhi, a woman of no known political opinions, setting foot in the political world was as dramatic as it was troubling. Since the murder in 1991 of her husband, politicians have descended on her white-washed bungalow in New Delhi beseeching her to enter the arena that she could not abide when her husband was alive. After cradling the bullet-ridden body of her assassinated mother-in-law, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, she lived in terror of the same fate falling on her husband and later her children.

In recent years Mrs. Gandhi has kept out of sight. Although she is not seeking office herself, she risks enflaming die-hard Hindu rightists who are already warning about a "Rome Raj" and demanding a renewed investigation into alleged foreign payoffs to the Gandhi family. Whether she can translate her popularity into political clout is uncertain. At her appearance last week near the site where her husband was killed by a bomb, she said she merely wanted to honor her husband's principles. Her speech in English, galvanized party workers and lifted hopes of picking up seats in Parliament.

Most remarkable was the presence of the Gandhi daughter Priyanka, who bears a stunning resemblance to the young Indira Gandhi, Nehru's daughter, when she was herself plucked from the shadows to serve as a figurehead in 1966. Congress bosses then referred to her as a "dumb doll," but she soon seized control and ousted them, fore-shadowing a taste for political revenge.

Distrustful of the party hacks, Indira Gandhi leaned on her son, Sanjay, and groomed him to succeed her. When he died while stunt-flying in 1980, she got her older son Rajiv, an airline pilot, to step in. Sonia Gandhi opposed the move but failed to stop it. "I was angry and resentful toward a system which, as I saw it, demanded him as a sacrificial lamb," she has said.

Other Comment**Kurds Are Testing Europe**

The idealistic motto of "ever closer union" may sound nice, but when it comes to applying it to the real world, it encounters nationalistic and political hurdles, as well as external factors which require strategic planning and action. The EU does not "think with one head." Even small numbers of migrants and asylum-seekers confront it with seemingly insurmountable problems. Western Europe is unlikely to find an effective solution to the problem in the foreseeable future.

— Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Zurich).

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HEALTH/SCIENCE

Chimp Tests Deepen Mystery of Speech Language Center Doubted

By Sandra Blakeslee
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A surprising new study reveals that chimpanzees have a structure in their brains that is similar to a so-called "language center" in human brains, challenging cherished notions of how language evolved in humans and why apes cannot talk.

In most people, the structure, a slender inch-long piece of tissue called the planum temporale, is larger in the left side of the brain than the right. Since this area is involved in the processing and comprehension of speech sounds and sign language, scientists concluded 30 years ago that an enlarged planum temporale in the left hemisphere was required for language and may have evolved for this purpose. Until now, no other animal was shown to have the same asymmetry in this brain region, located at the side of the head and connected to the ears.

The study, published in the current issue of the journal Science, was carried out by three anthropologists — Dr. Patrick Gannon of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, Dr. Ralph Holloway of Columbia University and Dr. Douglas Brodofield of the City University of New York — and Dr. Allen Braun, a neurologist at the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, in Bethesda, Maryland.

"This is an interesting and useful finding," said Dr. Antonio Damasio, an expert on brain and language at the University of Iowa College of Medicine, in Iowa City. It shows the dangers of concentrating on brain centers and areas, he said, and supports recent research showing that language is widely distributed in the brain and probably evolved from novel connections rather than from new structures.

LANGUAGE evolution remains a profound mystery. Sometime within the last 2 million years, two-legged primates, or hominids, developed the ability to talk with words, a dazzlingly difficult skill, said Dr. Terrence Deacon, a biological anthropologist at Boston Uni-

versity and McLean Hospital at Harvard Medical School.

Language requires lightning-fast processing of speech and understanding of abstract symbols — traits that other animals seem not to possess to the degree that humans do, he said. One can imagine the brain undergoing important reorganizations that underlie the ability to argue, cajole, complain, and pontificate.

In the late 1960s, scientists were strongly influenced by the idea that bigger is better and that evolutionary pressures would lead to obvious structural changes in the human brain, Dr. Deacon said. If they could find unique bits of human brain architecture, they concluded, it might explain language. A study conducted in 1968 seemed to confirm this view, Dr. Deacon said. Of 100 human brains examined, 68 had an enlarged left planum temporale, 24 had structures of equal size, and 11 had a larger planum temporale on the right side.

Many people took this to mean that the planum temporale might be a "control center" for language, Dr. Gannon said. It is part of the auditory association cortex where sounds come in from the ears, are processed, and then sent to other parts of the brain. Further evidence stemmed from links between the planum temporale and "a melange of behaviors and disorders including musical talent, handedness, and schizophrenia," Dr. Gannon said.

A few years ago, Dr. Gannon and his colleagues were examining preserved chimpanzee brains with the same methods used in the 1968 study. "We were simply exploring, looking for asymmetries, when one day our eyes popped out," he said. Of 18 chimpanzee brains examined, 17 had an enlarged planum temporale on the left side. "This was more pronounced than in humans," Dr. Gannon said in a telephone interview.

Because chimpanzees cannot talk or play the violin, what does the finding mean? Aside from the obvious fact that the common ancestor of chimpanzees and humans had this brain asymmetry 8 million years ago, Dr. Gannon said there are three possibilities.

First, the asymmetry in the common ancestor is unrelated to language or communication. But later on, humans built on it and evolved the unique capacity for language. The planum temporale in chimpanzees did not evolve along the same path and plays an unknown role.

Second, the ancestral planum temporale is involved with communication but followed different trajectories in the two species. In humans, it laid the basis for spoken and sign language and in chimps it laid the basis for a more gestural-based language.

"Chimps may have their own sophisticated form of language that we fail to recognize," Dr. Gannon said. "They have sense of self, can deceive one another, and show many complex communicative behaviors. Our language is vocal and auditory. Their language is gestural and visual."

THE third possibility is that the planum temporale is not directly related to language or communication but has tangential functions, and its role in language has been vastly overrated.

"I think this study provides a strong demonstration that this particular brain asymmetry is not likely to be crucial for language," said Dr. Deacon, whose book "The Symbolic Species" (Norton, 1997) lays out modern theories of language evolution. It supports the idea that humans did not evolve new

brain structures for language but used structures that were present in other animals.

To find out how language really evolved, researchers are looking more at microcircuity than at gross anatomy, Dr. Deacon said. After all, 30 of every 100 people on average do not show the asymmetry, yet they appear to use language just like everyone else.

Studies show that there is tremendous variability in where language ends up in each person's brain, he said, and it can even move around in young adulthood after injury or, as one study showed, in learning how to do simultaneous translations. In that study, one language stayed on the left and the second language literally shifted to the right side of the brain.

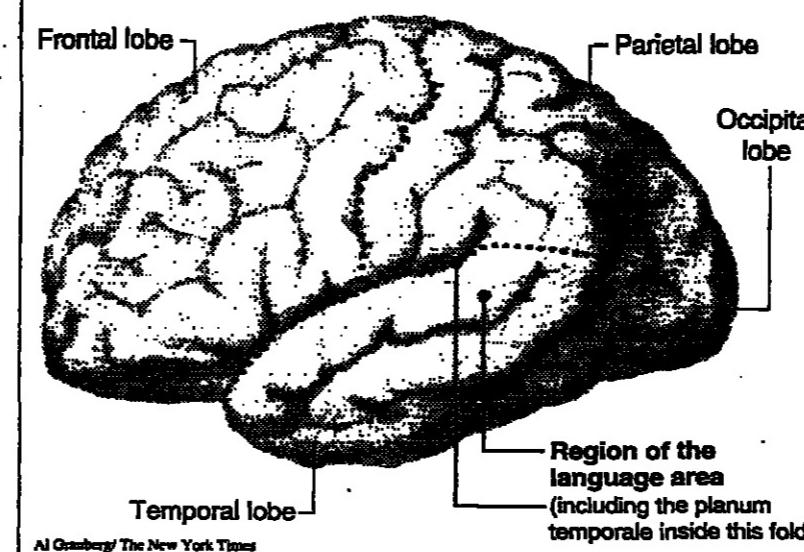
Better answers about language evolution lie in the way regions are connected in the brain, said Dr. Jeffrey Hutsler, a research assistant professor at Dartmouth College, in Hanover, New Hampshire, who dissects human brains to look for such clues. Patches of connected cells in so-called language areas are laid out differently in the left and right sides of the brain, he said. Such structural variations could lead to different firing rates among cells, making some better at processing fast speech sounds.

In the meantime, no one has a clue about the function of the large left planum temporale in chimpanzees. They may use it for hearing calls, hoots and other sounds, Dr. Gannon said, or, they may have traits that are on the threshold of human abilities.

While a huge study of diabetes in the early 1990s clearly demonstrated the importance of tight maintenance of blood sugar levels in avoiding the onset of complications, such control is difficult to maintain. An inhalable insulin could prompt Type 2 diabetes not using the drug to start, and encourage Type 1 diabetics to use it more often.

Inhaler Therapeutic Systems developed a dry, powdered insulin that can be stored at room temperature and can be inhaled rather than injected. Inhaler has licensed the system to a bigger company, Pfizer Inc., which hopes to file for U.S. approval in 1999.

It has long been thought that only people had the highly developed language area called the planum temporale, which is found on the upper surface of the temporal lobe on the left side of the brain, but a recent study shows that the area is as well developed in chimpanzees. The planum temporale is a small area within the brain's larger language area, at the junction of the temporal and parietal lobes.



Al Charest/The New York Times

For Diabetics, Drugs To Ease Life's Stings New Therapies Could End Shots

By Lawrence M. Fisher
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — Few medical breakthroughs have been as dramatic as the 1921 discovery of insulin, which changed diabetes from a death sentence to a survivable disease.

But diabetes and its complications remain a huge health problem. So biotechnology companies are racing to develop new therapies that aim to go beyond merely treating symptoms to attacking the cause of the disease, in which the pancreas shuts off or fails to produce the correct amount of the insulin hormone, causing dangerously high blood-sugar levels.

These companies' research may one day mean that for many patients, frequent injections of insulin will be only a memory. Many diabetes patients could have the option within two to three years of inhaling insulin rather than giving themselves injections.

The need for new diabetes therapies was underscored late last year when Glaxo Wellcome halted British sales of troglitazone, an oral drug, after it caused six deaths worldwide through liver damage.

Some diabetics are resistant to insulin, and troglitazone helps mitigate that resistance, though scientists are not sure why.

Of the new drugs in the wings, closest to market is Ergoset, from Ergo Science Corp. of Charlestown, Massachusetts. It is under review by the Food and Drug Administration. Ergoset is a low-dose, fast-release oral formulation of bromocriptine, which has been used to treat Parkinson's disease.

In clinical trials, Ergoset was at least as good as existing oral drugs in regulating blood sugar; side effects were limited to transient nausea, nasal congestion and low energy.

Another promising drug is Targretin, which Ligand Pharmaceuticals Inc. of San Diego has in the second of the three stages of clinical trials typical for new drugs. Targretin is the first in a new class of drugs to regulate blood glucose by intervening directly between insulin and the proteins it interacts with inside cells.

Another new class of drugs is being investigated by Cell Therapeutics Inc. of Seattle together with the City of Hope National Medical Center. These drugs have the potential to block destructive

oxygen-carrying molecules that attack the pancreas, cause resistance to insulin and may contribute to some side effects of diabetes.

All these efforts are aimed at developing oral drugs for Type 2 diabetes, once commonly called adult-onset diabetes. There are about 7.5 million people in the United States for whom Type 2 diabetes has been diagnosed and roughly 7.3 million more who are believed to have the disease even though it has not been diagnosed.

Type 2 diabetes produce insulin, but their bodies have somehow become resistant to it. Initially, many are treated with a combination of low-sugar diet, exercise and oral medicines like Orinase, which has been around for decades. Most, however, must eventually inject insulin that is manufactured from recombinant DNA or produced from animals.

Patients with Type 1 diabetes, once commonly known as juvenile diabetes, must take multiple insulin shots every day to survive. About 750,000 people in the United States have Type 1 diabetes, a disease in which the body mistakenly destroys the beta cells in the pancreas that produce insulin. There are no oral therapies for Type 1 diabetes.

PARTLY because it affects fewer patients, and partly because it is largely controlled by insulin, Type 1 diabetes has attracted fewer companies. But several are working on encapsulated pancreas cells from animal or human donors, in hopes of eliminating the daily injections by creating a sustainable source of insulin that could evade the immune system. Others are trying to develop genetically engineered animals that could serve as pancreas donors. Both efforts are a long way from fruition.

While a huge study of diabetes in the early 1990s clearly demonstrated the importance of tight maintenance of blood sugar levels in avoiding the onset of complications, such control is difficult to maintain. An inhalable insulin could prompt Type 2 diabetes not using the drug to start, and encourage Type 1 diabetics to use it more often.

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Severe Snoring Tied to Strokes

By Sally Squires
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Severe snoring appears to increase the risk of stroke by briefly reducing blood flow to the brain, scientists report from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and the University of Freiburg in Freiburg, Germany.

Previous studies have shown that the risk of stroke rises by as much as 40 percent in people who have sleep apnea, which temporarily causes breathing to stop during sleep and is often linked with heavy snoring. This is the first study, however, to find a direct link between severe snoring and a drop of blood flow to the brain, which could help explain the increased risk of stroke.

The study included 11 men and one woman, average age 54 years, who were

heavy snorers but had no evidence of heart disease. Five participants had high blood pressure, which was controlled by medication.

Nikolaus Netzer, a researcher, and his colleagues in Freiburg measured blood flow to the brain during sleep. They found that severe snoring, known as hypopnea, caused blood flow in the middle cerebral artery of the brain to drop by as much as 76 percent.

Sleep apnea, a condition during which people briefly stop breathing and often snore heavily, also caused blood flow in the middle cerebral artery to decrease by 80 percent. But a far less severe form of sleep apnea, which did not involve snoring, dropped brain blood flow by only 14 percent.

The sharp decrease in blood flow seen during severe snoring could help set the stage for a stroke in several ways, said Dr. Netzer, whose study was published in the journal *Stroke*. The sharp

drop in blood flow that occurs in severe snoring is followed by a surge in blood flow as the body suddenly wakes and struggles for air. "The blood pressure increases enormously and the heart rate rises enormously," he said. "This strains the system with extremes," he said, and could lead to a stroke.

At the same time, Dr. Netzer said, most people who snore need not worry about an increased stroke risk. "About 50 percent of the male population and about 50 percent of women at menopause and older snore," said Dr. Netzer, who is a visiting professor of pulmonary medicine at Case Western Reserve. "They should not be frightened."

But heavy snoring that leaves people gasping for breath in the middle of the night and very sleepy during the day is a condition that people "should bring to the attention of their physician," Dr. Netzer said.

LANGUAGE

'Slow-Walking': Drag Out or Punish?

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — "People slow-walk things, you know, especially if you've got a cutoff date," said Senator Fred Thompson of Tennessee, complaining to reporters last summer about the obfuscation he had faced from the White House in his investigation of campaign finance. He repeated the verb more emphatically as his hearings drew to a close: "We have been slow-walked and deferred and had objections every step of the way."

Slow-walk, the dialect verb, has two senses. The Tennessee sense, as used by Tennessee Thompson, means "delay." Citations are difficult to come by, but the Westlaw database, which covers all court proceedings, has several from Tennessee: "If I get the idea," one judge warned a mother resisting visitation rights to a child's father in 1989, "that you're dragging your feet or slow-walking the whole situation . . ." In a 1973 case, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit referred to testimony on a labor dispute that "many of the men were simply standing around and were purposely slow-walking the project . . . to stretch out the term of employment . . ."

Then there's the quite different Carolina sense. Joan Hall of the Dictionary of American Regional English at the University of Wisconsin found a report filed by a DARE interviewer in 1979 in central South Carolina, after a conversation with a black woman, the author Mary Metcalf: "Her mother used to say: 'There's a dead cat on the line. I'm going to slow-walk you down.' She told her daughter that, when she was sure that they were lying."

I have already reported on a *dead cat on the line*, used to express "a suspicion that somebody is trying to deceive me." (Fred Cassidy of DARE thinks

that it comes from a dead catfish on a trotline, evidence that a lazy fisherman has not been checking his poles. Others insist that the root is a dead feline blocking transmission on a telegraph line.)

But if our Carolina source was suspicious of being tricked, what did she mean by "I'm going to slow-walk you down"? A clue is in a 1962 North Carolina trial: "Before he began hitting and stabbing his wife with a knife in the city of New Bern, he said, 'I'll slow-walk her.'" Judging by the context in

Issues is a goo-goo's term for things the average voter doesn't really care about.

the two citations, I'd say the phrase means "chastise, punish," or in its extreme form, "stab to death."

Biology of the punitive Carolina sense is obscure, as the lexicographers say when they cannot puzzle out the root. The Tennessee sense — "delay"

may come from horse racing. Tennessee Walking Horses have three gaits: a flat walk, a running walk, and a canter. A synonym for "flat walk" is *slow walk*, as used in Joe Webb's 1967 "Care and Training of the Tennessee Walking Horse": "Whether you are successful or unsuccessful in getting the horse into a running walk, go back into the *slow walk* occasionally."

In politics, the *issues*, plural, intoned with great solemnity, is a goo-goo's term for "subjects the political scientist thinks are important but the average voter doesn't really care about."

In law, *take issue* and *at issue* direct the listener to the opposite side, making clear the controversy in a case. The sense of "dispute" was illustrated when Greta Garbo, in the 1939 film "Ni-nichka," said: "Don't make an issue of my womanhood." From this flowed the *issue's* meaning of "what is central to, or is the nub of, the case," neatly differentiated in a 1980 New York Times story about Vernon Jordan, then head of the Urban League, answering a reporter's question about a local official who drove him to a hotel on the night an assassin attempted to kill him: "Mrs. Coleman is not an issue. The shooting is an issue."

But in recent years, *an issue* has spread across all walks of life to mean either "problem" or "disagreement."

Dr. David Forrest is a psychiatrist at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York who provided a dictionary for foreign-born psychiatrists in 1976. ("Buzz off, Buster" — a direction said to someone bothersome to make him go away.) He told me last week that when he asked his niece recently about what was new at Bucknell College, she said: "I have *issues* with my calculus class" and "issues with my roommate." From these usages, he took the word to be a euphemism for "aggravation."

I think it has a source in psychoanalytic psychotherapy, says Forrest, "and not in cognitive or behavioral psychology. Psychoanalysts might say their patient is having a 'transference issue' or a 'payment issue' or a 'termination issue.' It's a way of saying, 'I'm struggling with this.'"

To have an *issue* is not to *join issue* or to *take issue*. In this vogue sense, *have an issue* with something is a euphemism for *have a problem with*, which is a euphemism for *have a disagreement with*. To those who have an *issue* with that, I say: Buzz off, Buster.

New York Times Service

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Herald Tribune

BUSINESS/FINANCE

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Stock Fans Keep at It In Taiwan

In a Land of Investors, Asia Crisis Is Discounted

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribune

TAIPEI — With a plastic bag of green leafy vegetables at her feet, Cathy Nii sits scrutinizing trading screens in the head office of Taiwan's largest securities house.

Undaunted by the economic crisis engulfing markets across Asia, the Taipei housewife and mother of two has put 70 percent of her life savings into stocks and plans to invest more.

"The market will hit 10,000 by July, so I want to buy electronics and plastics stocks now," Mrs. Nii said. "The region's crisis has an impact on the economy, but for Taiwan stocks it is more important to have insider information on individual companies."

Mrs. Nii, and thousands of retail investors like her, make up 90 percent of trading volume on the Taiwan Stock Exchange.

In this stock-obsessed nation, where more than 10 television channels exclusively follow market news and popular analysts garner celebrity status, individual investors still see Taiwan's economy as a special case, isolated from Asia's woes.

The benchmark index in Taipei finished Saturday at 7,895.48, off 12 percent since the region's crisis began in July, compared with the 36 percent drop in Seoul or the 40 percent plunge in Jakarta.

Taiwan investors got a taste of the regional turmoil last week when the index dropped nearly 5 percent Monday, but such slides have only whetted the appetite of many of the island's inward-looking and crisis-harden investors.

"When the market goes down like this, it is a great opportunity," said Tsai Hsien-jen, who quit his regular job 10 years ago to trade stocks full-time. "Stocks come down for economic and psychological reasons. For now, what happens in Indonesia and Korea is only a psychological problem for us, so stocks will come back up again."



Mr. Chiu, left, and Mr. Sheu, attending the ground-breaking for the planned 101-story Taipei Financial Center.

Taiwan Yui/Yuen-Fan-Han

Mr. Tsai regularly churns through his portfolio, making many trades each day to second-guess the psychological effect of news. This technique, typical of Taiwan investors, flourishes thanks to the low cost of making a trade.

Although there are only 400 companies listed on the Taiwan Stock Exchange, the trading volume in dollar terms is higher than that of the Tokyo and Hong Kong exchanges combined.

Mr. Tsai said that the devaluation of the won by South Korea — Taiwan's major export competitor — would hurt the economy, but he said Taiwan's companies remained healthy.

"All my money is in stocks, and it is my belief that the market will rise to 10,000 later this year," Mr. Tsai said, adding that he learned how to deal with falling markets during the stock plunge seven years ago.

Following a three-year rally that multiplied the market index five-fold to peak in February 1990 at 12,682 points, Taiwan shares collapsed back to where they had started in just a matter of months.

"I lost only book value," Mr. Tsai said. "If you hold on for long enough it will fall like that, you will be all right again."

Taiwan investors also developed a strong resistance to panic thanks to the

total loss of confidence when Beijing sent missiles splashing down off their coast during a series of provocative tests in late 1995, said Irene Chien, an equity analyst at SBC Warburg Dillon Read.

"People were changing money into U.S. dollars, packing their bags and looking for Canadian or New Zealand passports," she said. "After it was all over, everyone noticed that those people who had bought stocks during the crisis made a lot of money."

A retired army colonel, Lu Yun-duay, who has half of his savings invested in stocks and comes to his brokerage every trading day to monitor his investments, said that the difficulties facing other Asian stock markets had proved that Taipei's policy of economic isolation was right.

"Look what happened in Thailand, Malaysia and South Korea when foreigners left the market," Mr. Lu said. "If you open up, Taiwan people will lose control of their stock market also."

While among the world's top 20 traders, Taiwan remains a very closed economy with relatively low levels of foreign borrowing and a currency of limited convertibility.

Foreign investors, who face bureaucratic hurdles and restrictions, have ac-

counted for less than 4 percent of stock market volume, and most of them pulled out in October.

"This shows that the government should not rush too fast to join the World Trade Organization and increase foreign investment to 30 percent," Mr. Lu said.

Apart from relations with China, the only foreign news that matters to Taiwan stocks is the fall of the currency, according to a part-time investor, Lin Chi-tei.

"It's not that I don't care about international affairs," Mr. Lin said. "It's just that they don't affect the value of stocks in this country as much as other things, such as technical analysis of companies."

Mr. Lin, who earns 50,000 Taiwan dollars (\$1,480) a month selling electronics parts, put up his house as collateral to buy stocks and now has a portfolio worth more than 1 million dollars.

Holding a newspaper filled with charts and covered with his own multicolored scribbles, Mr. Lin said he never varied from his strict rules of invest-

"I never let emotion get involved in an investment," Mr. Lin said. "When a stock reaches the target I set for it, I sell it."

Taipei Plans to Delay Reform of Economy

Currency Controls May Be Kept Beyond 2000

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribune

In the interview, Mr. Sheu also said: "China was not likely to devalue the yuan, but a sharp fall of the currency would set off another round of Asian currency devaluations."

Taiwan's involvement in assisting crisis-hit Asian countries will "basically" remain in the private sector, since government aid would anger China.

The Taiwan dollar is undervalued and should rise within the next few months to between 31 and 32 Taiwan dollars per U.S. dollar.

In terms of liberalization, Finance Minister Paul Chen said the government officially still held to the goal of allowing the free flow of capital by 2000, but an actual opening of the economy would only take place if all sectors were ready.

"Before fully opening up the cross-border market, you have to deepen and broaden your own financial markets," Mr. Chen said.

Mr. Sheu ascribed Thailand's problems to a hasty and badly executed opening of the country to foreign investors that kept the currency pegged to the dollar.

"Speculators could come in and get the high interest rates and bring their money back out with no risk," Mr. Sheu said.

If faced with a coordinated attack on the Taiwan dollar, Mr. Sheu said he would not hesitate to raise interest rates to punish speculators and, as a last resort, limit access to the currency.

"If we have too many Taiwan dollars circulated outside Taiwan, it is easier for international speculators to attack the currency," Mr. Sheu said, emphasizing that the country's best defense for the currency was its robust economy.

Even as Taiwan officials talk of slowing liberalization, the country is promoting itself as a future regional financial center in an Asia of open markets.

Mr. Sheu last week helped break ground for a 101-floor building to house international financial institutions.

"We welcome everyone to use Taiwan as a financial hub to reach all of Asia, including mainland China," he said. "Carefully, step by step, we will push forward liberalization and even introduce derivatives and other products available in New York."

Closed markets sheltered the Taiwan dollar from speculative attack, but underlying economic fundamentals have kept it stable, Mr. Sheu said.

"We have two wheels on which our currency is riding, our strong economic fundamentals and our sound financial system," Mr. Sheu said.

Over the next few months Mr. Sheu expects the U.S. dollar to fall from its Friday close of 33.79 Taiwan dollars.

"It is quite hard to say whether it will be 32 dollars or 31 dollars, because we are exposed to fluctuations in international markets," he said. "Our currency is definitely undervalued now."

Although the plunging South Korean won has increased export competition for Taiwan and raised concerns about South Korean companies dumping cheap goods, Mr. Sheu does not expect Taiwan businessmen to pressure him for a further devaluation.

"Businessmen want dynamic stability, not volatile markets, so they can plan ahead," Mr. Sheu said. "Also, if you devalue too deeply, it hurts them when they import new materials."

Of the government's growth projection of 6.7 percent for 1998, Mr. Sheu said, "This is a target for the country, but maybe we can reach 6.3 percent or 6.4 percent growth." Economists predict the country's growth in 1998 will be around 4 percent.

Tobacco Firms Fire Up Smoking Campaigns in Third World

By Barry Meier
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Last August, dozens of journalists from Latin America arrived in Miami as guests of British-American Tobacco Co., whose Brown & Williamson unit makes popular cigarettes like Kool, Carlton and Lucky Strike.

The company paid for the visitors' air fare, hotel rooms and even dinners at expensive restaurants. The reporters heard company officials and paid speakers attack restrictions on smoking and cigarette advertising as scientifically unsound or artifacts of lawsuit-driven societies like the United States.

The public relations full-court press was a startling contrast to the face of sweet reason that the tobacco industry has been putting on for the American public these days.

In June, five major tobacco companies, including multinational giants like British-American Tobacco, based in

London, and Philip Morris Cos., reached a \$368.5 billion agreement to settle lawsuits by states and smokers, a development hailed by the industry as a historic opportunity to reduce smoking by young people. That deal is now under consideration by Congress.

But while the companies agreed to sweeping restrictions in the United States on cigarette marketing and cancer-warning labels, they are fighting as hard as ever in the Third World to convince the news media, the public and policymakers that similar changes are not needed in their own countries.

The tobacco companies have long lobbied policymakers in the United States and abroad to prevent passage of restrictions on tobacco. But in the last three years they have sharpened their campaigns overseas to influence how tobacco-related issues are portrayed in the news or presented to the public, and there are signs that some of those efforts are paying off.

The congressional debate over the proposed settlement comes as the tobacco industry finds itself under attack in some parts of the world. Recently, the European Union agreed to ban virtually all tobacco advertising within five years. Turkey has recently passed laws that restrict cigarette advertising.

With cigarette sales stagnant in the United States, multinational producers such as BAT, Philip Morris and R.J. Reynolds, which is owned by RIR Nabisco Holdings Corp., have scrambled in recent years to buy stakes in production operations in areas of rapid sales growth in Eastern Europe, Asia and elsewhere.

In recent years, for example, British-American Tobacco has put on many conferences for journalists, inviting reporters from Third World countries.

Their strategy all the time is to raise questions about anti-tobacco research," said Kathryn Strachan, a reporter with Business Day, a newspaper in Johannesburg, who attended a company-sponsored conference last year at a re-

sort on the island of Mauritius.

Officials of British-American Tobacco said they had never tried to hide the company's sponsorship of seminars for foreign reporters. Chris Proctor, the company's chief scientist, said meetings like the Miami gathering provided the cigarette producer with a chance to present its side of the smoking debate.

The effects of the meetings sponsored by British-American Tobacco are difficult to gauge. But in countries where tobacco producers still spend a lot of money advertising in newspapers and are permitted to run television commercials, journalists' coverage of health issues can sometimes show a slant in favor of the tobacco industry's point of view.

In late 1996, for example, several newspapers in the Philippines reported on a Cornell University study that suggested office workers who had headaches and other symptoms associated with indoor air pollution might be reacting to psychological factors rather than environmental irritants.

Italy to Face EU Over Its Euro Bid

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRUSSELS — Italy will seek this week to stamp out doubts about its eligibility for Europe's single currency, taking its case to European Union finance ministers and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany in a week of potentially decisive meetings.

Treasurer Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi of Italy is set for a favorable hearing from EU counterparts in Brussels on Monday, while Mr. Kohl is expected to toe a more noncommittal line when meeting Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy in Rome the next day, officials and analysts said.

The finance ministers' meeting will bring Mr. Ciampi together with his Dutch counterpart, Gerrit Zalm, for the first time since a Dutch newspaper reported Mr. Zalm would resign if Italy were allowed to join the single currency from 1999.

Mr. Zalm denied the report, but offered less than full backing to Italy's bid, reawakening doubts about whether the currency union will start next year with 11 out of the 15 EU countries, as most commentators now expect. Britain, Denmark and Sweden have said they will not join while Greece has ruled itself out on economic grounds.

Going on the offensive last week, the Italian government released a 35-page paper contending that Italy has lived down a history of financial mismanagement and has implanted the anti-inflation "culture of stability" long rooted north of the Alps.

Heribert Haas, head of Germany's council of economic advisers, told the daily *Die Republik* that while Italy will probably be judged fit for the euro, Mr. Kohl "cannot yet promise that; he fears protests in Germany."

Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer was quoted by *Focus* magazine as saying that countries with debt above 100 percent of gross domestic product already have a "strike against" them in their efforts to get into the monetary union. Italy's debt level was estimated at 123.2 percent of GDP last year, the second-highest in the bloc after Belgium's 124.7 percent. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

Big Computer Companies Pull the Plug on Free Support

By Beth Berselli
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — For many consumers who received that eagerly awaited computer or software pack-

aging at the holidays, here comes a word of warning: If you can't figure it out on your own, you're likely to pay for advice.

More computer makers and software companies are

charging customers for advice they used to provide over the telephone for free.

While most companies still handle calls about defective hardware gratis, many of the big names, including Microsoft Corp., International Business Machines Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Co., require home users to pay for general how-to advice or for inquiries made after their warranty expires.

In the past few years, it has become increasingly common for customers to pay \$25 to \$35 for each inquiry, or \$2 to \$3 a minute on a 900-phone number.

Apple computer owners who bought their Macintoshes after April 1, 1996, will be charged \$35 for each call after a 90-day complimentary period. IBM customers with questions are charged \$2.99 per minute on a 900 line — the first minute is free — after their one-year warranty expires. After its 90-day complimentary period on some software packages, Microsoft levies a \$35-per-inquiry charge.

Even so-called free calls are not necessarily so anymore, as several companies, including Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard, have abandoned their toll-free hot lines and now require customers to

make long-distance calls.

For their part, the companies say rapidly growing call volumes have made it impossible for them to support their products for free forever. Not only are more novices buying computers, the companies increasingly field no-brainers such as "How do you turn on the computer?"

"Free support just isn't a sustainable model anymore,"

said Pete Gladstein, who heads Apple Computer Inc.'s support services. In June, Apple began its \$35-per-inquiry fee.

Regardless of the companies' reasons for ending on-line support, some customers just are not buying it.

"The day I pay a computer company for a computer and then pay them to help me fix their screw-ups is the day the flames of purgatory," said Cliff Verbeski, 37, from Brandon, South Dakota, who

purposely bought a Gateway 2000 computer because of the company's guarantee of free lifetime support.

Mr. Gladstein and executives at other hardware and software companies say that the majority of their customers still receive free phone support because most questions come within the first few months of computer ownership.

They estimate that fewer than 10 percent of calls result in fees.

Another reason for the charges, analysts said, stems from falling computer prices. With some PCs selling for less than \$1,000, computer makers say they cannot afford to offer the complimentary service.

They also argue that customers would prefer a bare-bones package instead of paying for extra support they may never need, analysts said.

Eric Rocco, an analyst at Dataquest Inc., a market research firm, said many companies were promoting their on-line support, which is still free. The hope is that customers will first turn to a company's Web site for answers, thereby freeing up the phone lines for customers with more serious problems.

The company that has drawn many of the most vocal complaints is Compaq. In January 1996, the PC maker

began charging \$35 per call for most customers of its Presario line, even when the machines were still under warranty.

The move was a departure from other companies' policies, which levied fees only after warranties had expired.

Compaq customers decried the change, and the company's support and service ratings slipped in industry publications, including PC World. A year later, Compaq switched its policy so that Presario customers would be charged only after their one-year warranty expired.

Regardless of the companies' reasons for ending on-line support, some customers just are not buying it.

"The day I pay a computer company for a computer and then pay them to help me fix their screw-ups is the day the flames of

CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

BIS Takes Aim at Lax Banks

By Carl Gewirtz
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — In a move aimed at ensuring banks adopt tough internal controls over their operations, banking supervisors have announced a framework they will use to measure whether such controls are adequate.

By extending the supervisory reach beyond specific banking activities — such as interest rate risk, and trading and derivatives activities — the supervisors said that the safe and sound operation of banks is essential to promoting stability in the financial system as a whole.

In cases where controls are deemed deficient, supervisors "should take action against the bank," the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision stated

in its report "Framework for the Evaluation of Internal Control Systems."

The committee, which meets at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, comprises supervisors from the 12 most important financial centers: Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

The report advised management to avoid giving misleading signals for inappropriate activities, such as "undue emphasis on performance targets" and "high performance-dependent compensation rewards." One of the most frequently overlooked pillars of what it calls "sound internal control systems" is the need to segregate duties so the same person is not both authorizing and executing operations.

It May Be the Right Time to Be Bullish on Bonds

By Floyd Norris
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Inflation is down, and some sniff deflation on the horizon.

The dollar has become the currency of refuge for traders traumatized by Asia, and the safest way to invest dollars is in Treasury securities.

President Bill Clinton says he will propose a balanced federal budget, and congressional leaders say they will pass one. That would mean there would be no increase in the Treasury-bond supply.

Each of those factors provides a good reason to be bullish on the Treasury bond market. Together, they paint a picture of sure profits from buying bonds, especially at a time when the stock market looks shaky.

There is strong U.S. economic growth, which in other times would raise

the specter of tightening by the Federal

Reserve Board. But with Asia cracking and the dollar strong, few now expect any such Fed move. Many think the next Fed action will be to lower short-term interest rates, not to raise them.

More important to some traders, Treasury bonds have worked. They

Bernstein, an analyst at Bridgewater Associates, puts together numbers from two other services, Market Vane and Consensus Economics, to calculate just how broad the bullish or bearish consensus is. Right now, he says, the bullishness is as solid as it has been at any time in this decade.

To a contrarian investor, that is scary.

It does not, of course, mean that bond prices cannot go higher, and yields lower, if the news continues to flow the way it has, they probably will. But the moves may be smaller because so many are already bullish.

On the other hand, Mr. Bernstein said, "you are laying the groundwork for the market to be more susceptible to bad news than it is to good news."

If bad news — from the bond market point of view — does arrive, it could create a sharp correction.

To buy bonds now, said Robert

Barbera, the chief economist of Hoenig & Co., is to bet that Asia's woes will cause the United States economy to slow despite the housing boom that lower interest rates are creating. Applications for new mortgages are at an all-time high.

It also is to bet that all the haven money that has flooded into Treasury bonds will stay put.

It will do so if the Asian situation keeps worsening. But if it becomes clear we will not have a financial meltdown around the world, some of that money is likely to leave.

If that happens, Asian stocks and bonds, which are now very cheap but unwanted because investors are scared, may look attractive.

In that case, even if there is no overwhelming bad news to hurt bonds, they may give up some of their recent extraordinary gains.

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending Jan. 16. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Rnk Name Cpn Maturity Price Yield

French Franc

191 Belgium 7/14 12/23/00 109,3300 7.0900

195 Belgium zero 04/09/98 99,2234 3.3500

British Pound

71 Amington zero 01/02/93 14,2500 7.5000

125 World Bank 6 03/07/98 99,5300 6.0200

149 World FRN 4/16 09/01/98 98,5243 4.3100

152 Amington FRN 8/07 01/22/03 98,0000 8.2600

192 World Bank 6,10 03/07/98 98,1250 6.2200

203 Aire Valley FRN 7,474 11/04/99 98,7500 7.4900

246 Briffon 7 04/07/98 102,3400 6.8400

250 Amington zero 12/07/98 18,7500 6.9500

Canadian Dollar

215 Canada 6 03/15/98 100,2750 5.9800

Danish Krone

9 Denmark 7 11/15/97 112,2500 6.2400

11 Denmark 8 03/15/98 117,0400 6.7000

16 Denmark 7 11/02/94 115,0000 6.0900

22 Denmark 9 11/15/00 111,6700 8.8600

24 Denmark 6 12/09/97 110,0000 6.8100

44 Denmark 6,10 03/07/98 109,2500 6.2200

59 Denmark 7,12 03/02/98 111,3000 7.1000

73 Denmark 7 12/15/00 110,5500 6.3300

86 Denmark 9 11/15/98 109,8500 8.8600

97 Denmark 7 10/19/98 109,8500 6.2200

105 Nykredit 4 02/15/00 98,8600 4.0500

117 Denmark 6 10/01/98 97,5500 6.1400

179 Nykredit 7 01/01/99 97,5500 7.8000

204 Denmark 7 02/15/98 100,1500 6.5900

212 Byggeforet 7 10/01/98 99,4500 7.0400

Deutsche Mark

1 Germany 6 07/07/97 104,2000 5.1000

2 Germany 5/1 01/04/98 101,2570 5.1800

4 Germany 4/12/17/99 100,7000 4.2200

5 Germany 6 07/04/97 111,4442 5.8300

6 Germany 6 07/04/97 111,3000 5.8300

7 Germany 6 07/04/97 109,1848 5.2700

8 Germany 6/9 01/02/98 102,9500 7.3000

10 Germany 6/9 01/02/98 102,9500 7.3000

12 Germany 6/9 01/02/98 111,8687 6.1400

13 Germany 4/9 01/02/98 100,0800 5.4000

14 Germany 6/9 01/02/98 114,2000 6.4000

15 Germany 6/9 01/02/98 114,2000 6.4000

17 Treuhand 7/16 02/01/98 110,2500 6.2200

18 Treuhand 7/16 02/01/98 111,9500 6.4100

19 Germany 7/16 02/01/98 114,2500 6.3000

20 Germany 8 07/22/92 113,9500 7.9200

21 Germany 6 01/05/98 106,4500 5.5200

22 Germany 6/9 01/02/98 106,4500 5.5200

24 Germany 6/9 01/02/98 106,4500 5.5200

25 Treuhand 6/9 01/02/98 106,4500 5.5200

26 Treuhand 6/9 01/02/98 106,4500 5.5200

28 Germany 5/6 05/04/98 103,9000 5.6500

29 Germany 5 10/01/98 103,9000 5.6500

30 Germany 5 10/01/98 103,9000 5.6500

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67 Treuhand 6/9 01/02/98 105,1000 6.1800

Eastern Europe Looks Vulnerable to Asian-Style Turmoil

By Peter S. Green
International Herald Tribune

PRAGUE — Largely isolated from the turmoil that has defanged the one-time tiger economies of Asia, East and Central European countries are now wondering when, if ever, the contagion will reach them.

But analysts warn that while Eastern Europe's economies are still more tightly controlled than those in Asia, the region shares many structural flaws that led Asia's bubble economies to burst.

Credit Suisse First Boston, an investment firm, has slashed its economic growth estimates for Central and East-

ern Europe as a whole for 1998 to just over 1 percent, from 1.7 percent.

The firm cited trade losses to Asian competitors whose goods are now far cheaper, especially in textiles, automotive and electronics, as well as the region's dependence on Germany, which takes 20 percent of the region's exports, and global financial-markets tremors caused by the Asian crisis.

Laza Kelic of the Economist Intelligence Unit said Eastern Europe also should be particularly concerned by its unfinished economic reforms.

"Some of the East European economies share a lot of the fundamentals of the Asian crisis, most noticeably they

share high current-account deficits, weak banking sectors and weak regulation and overvalued currencies," Mr. Kelic said.

Seduced by the high living standards of their European Union neighbors, Czechs, Poles, Slovaks and even Romanians have been building up massive current-account deficits largely fueled by consumer demand. Along with Russia's budget gap, the deficits are cited as the region's most pressing problem.

The Czech Republic saw its currency fall almost 25 percent against the dollar in the past year, when an 8 percent current-account deficit led speculators to savage the koruna.

Poland and Hungary have been fighting to keep their current-account deficits from expanding, and Slovakia has effectively already lost the battle. Romania, where a reformist coalition government is on the verge of collapse, is facing shortfalls in foreign exchange and investment to cover its growing budget and current-account problems.

"What we are seeing as a result of Asia is an overall reduction of risk taken by institutional investors, so the flows into the region will be lower, and the countries that depend on that inflow are vulnerable," said Susanne Gahler, emerging markets strategist at J.P. Morgan & Co. in London.

SHORT COVER

New Nomura Scandal

TOKYO (Reuters) — Two former executives of Nomura Securities Co. and a government finance official were arrested Sunday on charges of bribery, Japanese media reported.

The incident is a new setback for Nomura, which had just been allowed to resume full operations after a scandal involving payoffs to a racketeer.

NHK television and the Kyodo news agency, said Tokyo prosecutors had arrested Takehiko Isaka, director in charge of accounting at the state-run Japan Highway Public Corp., as well as Naotaka Murasumi, a former Nomura vice president, and Isao Teranishi, a former managing director.

Kabul to Fix Currency

KABUL (AFP) — The Taliban will use daily value-fixing to try to halt speculation in Afghanistan's ailing currency, the afghani, state-run radio said Sunday.

In a package of measures aimed at giving the Islamic militia greater fiscal control, the main money market in Kabul was shut down, with all traders ordered to register their shops.

The Taliban also outlawed *seta-hazi*, in which traders get a profit for changing 5,000-afghani notes for other denominations.

Diageo Reality Moves

LONDON (Reuters) — Diageo PLC, the food and beverage giant formed by the merger of Guinness PLC and Grand Metropolitan PLC, said Sunday that it was altering its London land holdings.

A spokesman confirmed a report that Diageo would sell its offices in Portman Square, in central London, as well as the lease on offices in a western section, Hammersmith. Instead, it has bought the lease on a development in the capital's West End.

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"A major difference between Asia and Central Europe is that lending as a percent of GDP is incredibly lower, and an Asia-style meltdown would not have nearly the same impact in Central Europe," she added.

In the Czech Republic, domestic lending was only 83 percent of the country's economic output, while it was 50 percent in Hungary and 35.2 percent in Poland in September. Thailand in 1996, noted Ms. Schechter had loaned 141 percent of its output before the crash.

Another positive factor is the nearly complete unraveling of intraregional trade — the collapse of any one country is unlikely to bring down others. "That's one of the main differences that minimizes the possibility of anything spreading like wildfire," Mr. Kelic said.

Nor is Eastern Europe's lending nearly as overextended as Asia.

"I don't think there's a lending bubble similar to what there was in Asia," said Sonja Schechter, an analyst at Daiwa Securities. "You don't see empty office buildings sitting around. A lot of the lending has been for things needed by industry to upgrade: roads, factories, equipment and the like."

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NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Friday Jan. 18

Continued on Page 15

Two-month
subscription
is up to \$1

SPORTS

Russia Sweeps All 4 European Skating Titles

By Sal Zanca
Special to the Herald Tribune

MILAN — On to Nagano. The figure skaters have got the preliminary national championships out of the way and await the start of the Olympic Games.

The unofficial second edition of this year's Russian Championships — formally known as the European Figure Skating Championships — ended here Saturday.

The winners — all from Russia — can look back at the 1994 Olympics and gain confidence that all four gold medalists came from Europe.

The runners-up, also all Russians, can gain some solace in the fact that gold medalists in the four events at Lillehammer, Norway, including Oksana Baiul of Ukraine, failed to win their European titles the month before.

Baiul is now living comfortably off the fortune she made after her victory in Norway.

Another skater formerly known as Oksana, now Pasha Grishuk, looks for her second gold medal in ice dancing with her partner, Yevgeni Platov. Grishuk changed her name late last year to avoid confusion with Baiul.

Grishuk and Platov want to become the first ice dancers to win two Olympic golds, something the British pair Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean could not do.

The Russians' "Memorial" program was a tribute to Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to the memory of athletes and coaches who have died.

The program was the highlight of the European championships for many, earning the top marks of any event, including four 6.0s.

"I think in Nagano the people appreciate our program and will remember it like Torvill and Dean's 'Bolero,'" said Platov.

Platov fell in the original dance competition putting the pair in second place entering the free dance program behind their rivals, Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov. Still they soared ahead, reversing the standings for the finals and were part of four 1-2 sweeps in the event a year after Russia became the first country to win all four events.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

CENTRAL DIVISION

MIDWEST CONFERENCE

PACIFIC DIVISION

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SATURDAY RESULTS

SUNDAY RESULTS

MONDAY SCORES

TUESDAY RESULTS

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THURSDAY RESULTS

SPORTS

Coach Bird Proves He Can Follow His Old Act

By Mike Wise
New York Times Service

INDIANAPOLIS — The team plane was scheduled to leave for Nashville, Tennessee, at 4 P.M., but Travis Best and Dale Davis were nowhere to be found. Though it was the pre-season, the coach of the Indiana Pacers stood firm. "Stairs go up," Larry Bird said.

Suddenly, the two players emerged from the terminal, on a passenger cart motoring toward the tarmac. Should they let the portable walkway down again? Bird was asked. "Nope," he said. The players were tardy. Bird hoped their commercial flight through Atlanta would be swell.

Whether it was or not, who knows, but Bird, in his simple and direct style, had made his point. And now, 36 games into his first season as a coach, Bird seems to have made it again, for the Pacers have emerged as one of the pleasant surprises of the season with a 25-11 record that marks their best start ever in the NBA.

Five years after his retirement and subsequent back surgery, Bird's transition from playing icon to coaching neophyte has been at once seamless and surprising.

On Sunday afternoon, the Boston Celtics welcomed home their favorite son in a nationally televised game. And like a lot of folks around the league, the Celts are beginning to wonder how coach Bird escaped Larry Legend's immense shadow so quickly and successfully.

"They all forget, Larry has a great ability to say things in a few words," said Dick Harter, the 66-year-old defensive specialist who Bird hired as an assistant, along with a former teammate, Rick Carlisle. "You can't put a price on how valuable that is in this league. Everything is simple with him. You show up on time, you work, you succeed. Easy, hub?"

It seems that way. Bird's Pacers move the basketball, run with the Chicago Bulls in the Eastern Conference and make every possession count. From Reggie Miller to Fred Hoiberg, the players portray their coach as a patient teacher, long on honesty and short on mind games.

Bird, in turn, says he is still "learning about each one of these guys," that the Pacers are "not the best team in the league, and not the worst either," and

that whatever they ultimately prove to be, he likes them. On the sideline, he appears remarkably casual as the game proceeds, and in comments to reporters he uses his down-to-earth humor — an old tool from his playing arsenal — to good effect.

For instance, in a game Dec. 19 against Detroit, Jerry Stackhouse tormented the Pacers in the final two quarters. Indians held on, but not before Bird threw away a comfortable lead with his defensive strategy.

A morose Bird entered the postgame interview room, declaring, "That's the last time I ever let Carlisle and Harter coach the second half." Asked in another instance whether his insights as a player translated to the new job, he replied, "Well, as a player, of course, I never committed a foul."

And his casual sideline approach compared with Harter's more intense mannerisms? "That's why we don't get any calls, because Dick's always arguing with the officials."

So Bird is clearly at it again, aw-shucking his way through the NBA, his homespun charm belying his desire to win. During last Wednesday's game against the Pistons at Market Square Arena, he wore a charcoal gray suit, a patterned, burgundy tie and a look of sheer boredom. The game was in the balance with three minutes left, and his

hands stayed in his pockets. With under a minute remaining, Bird finally scratched an itch above his brow and decided, what the heck, he would call a timeout.

The Pacers came out of the huddle, made a defensive stop and Miller fired in the clinching three-pointer with less than 30 seconds left.

So it goes in Indiana. The Pacers have won a lot of games this season for Bird, the emotional minimalist. If there was never much of a veneer to Bird the player, there is even less to Bird the coach.

"There is no ego involved," the point guard Mark Jackson said. "There is no, 'This is how you do it because this is how I did it and that's the only way.' He understands us."

Said Chris Mullin, who joined the Pacers this season after 12 years with Golden State: "You can maybe anticipate saying, 'I'm playing for Larry, the best forward ever,' but you don't feel that. He is always positive, and that in itself gives you so much confidence. It's not huge adjustment playing for him for a lot of us, because he was a guy we learned from when he played. There is no denying that."

Bird's sideline mannerisms run between serene and dispassionate. In an era of clipboard supernovas who want part ownership and limousine service and from home games, he is as he was — polished, never slick.

"The game gets tight, he gets more comfortable," Mullin said. "It's an incredible feeling during a timeout of a tie game."

Mullin proceeded to illustrate his point with a recent vignette on the bench: "He'll say, 'Run this, O.K.? Remember, we did it yesterday in practice?' Same thing. You're open, hit the shot. I saw you make 12 of them yesterday. Larry makes the game what it is: simple."

HE HAS SAVED his best mentoring for Jalen Rose, whose 23 points off the bench in Friday night's victory over Sacramento illustrated his emergence this season. Challenging Rose and Best, but not demanding, Bird has won their trust, too.

"Really, the jewel of the job Larry has done so far is that our younger players have responded in a way we didn't expect," Carlisle said. "His sixth sense doesn't hurt, either."

In a recent game at Dallas in which the Pacers were struggling, Bird pitted

Hoiberg and Derrick McKey with Miller, Smits and Jackson, a lineup that had never finished a game before. Hoiberg ended up hitting the game-winning three-pointer and Indiana won, 84-79.

If Bird is outwardly taking it easy on the Pacers, they are returning the favor. After all, this is the team with six players who have been to the conference finals twice. Larry Brown, the former coach, may have worn out his welcome here, but he did not leave the cupboard bare.

"The frustration that goes with raising young players today could be hair-raising from his aspect," Reggie Miller said. "But you take us, a smart team that understands the game, and he doesn't have to overexert. We don't make a lot of mistakes and we play within ourselves. I guess that's a lot like how he played."

When Bird is not heaping praise on Harter and Carlisle, he tries to emulate the former Celtics' coaches K.C. Jones and Bill Fitch.

"I tried to take a little of both," Bird said. He credits Fitch as being one of the game's superior tacticians, able to communicate exactly what he wants on the court with a grease pen and a clipboard.

"And I try to treat people like K.C. Jones did," Bird said. "I think he's a great man. He stands for all the right symbols and he's just an awesome guy. I try to treat my players the same way."

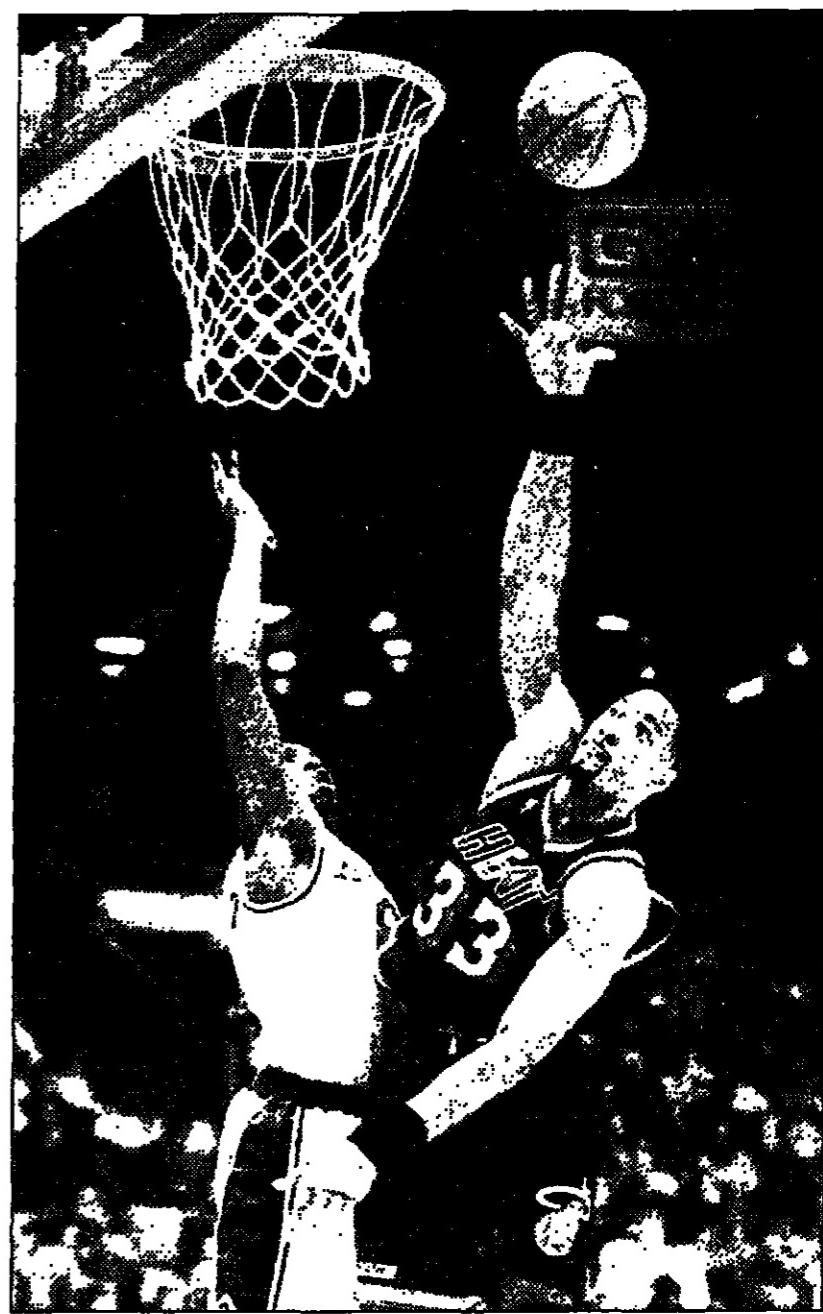
Last week, Bird was reminded of an interview he gave to a reporter in November 1991, the beginning of his final season. To the question of whether he would ever consider coaching, he responded then, "That life's not for me. I just wouldn't even think about it. I'd rather be fishing or golfing."

Now, he laughed at his own words. "You probably caught me on a day when my back was bothering me," he said. "I don't know why I'm doing this, to tell you the truth. I have no idea. But it has been a great experience. I would like to see us get back in the playoffs. Everybody on the outside is looking at us now — oh yeah, they're stacked with all this talent, they should win 55 games. I don't see it that way. These guys made a turnaround themselves; they worked very hard to get where they are right now."

Bird added: "I don't know if I'm going to do this two, three or four years, or whatever. Not very long. I won't be here 10, 15 years. But I'm with the team I want to be with."



John Rutledge/Agence France-Presse
Larry Bird exhorting the Pacers in a recent victory over the Kings.



San Antonio Review
The Heat's Alonzo Mourning shooting over Kobe Bryant of the Lakers.

Knicks Rap Toronto**Ward Shines With 18 Points in Road Victory**

The Associated Press

Charlie Ward had the best game of his career, scoring 18 points with six assists, five rebounds, four steals and four 3-pointers as the New York Knicks defeated the Toronto Raptors, 93-82.

Larry Johnson scored 24 points and pulled down 10 rebounds Saturday

NBA ROUNDUP

night for the visiting Knicks, who used a 12-0 fourth-quarter run to pull away.

Allan Houston scored 23 points and John Starks scored 12 points off the bench for the Knicks. Chris Mills added nine points and 10 rebounds.

Marcus Camby led the Raptors with 22 points, while Doug Christie had 18 points, six rebounds and five assists.

Wizards 108, Clippers 99 Chris Webber had 31 points and Tracy Murray came off the bench to score 20 as Washington beat visiting Los Angeles.

Los Angeles rallied to cut a 16-point deficit to six with 1:28 left, but the Wizards sealed the victory by scoring the final three points.

76ers 112, Warriors 84 In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson scored 15 of his 28 points in the first quarter as the 76ers defeated Golden State's 10th straight loss.

Iverson was 6-for-8 from the floor in the quarter.

Derrick Coleman added 18 points and nine rebounds, Tim Thomas had 15 points and a career-high six assists and Jim Jackson added 13 points for the 76ers.

Erick Dampier led the Warriors with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Net 97, Hawks 81 Keith Van Horn scored 23 points and host New Jersey held Atlanta to a season-low 10 points in the third quarter in ending the Hawks' six-game winning streak.

Kerry Kittles added 19 points. Sherman Douglas had 18 points and 10 as-

sists and Jason Williams had 15 points and 23 rebounds.

Steve Smith led the Hawks with 17 points, but his streak of scoring at least 20 points was stopped at eight games.

Dikembe Mutombo added 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Timberwolves 113, Mavericks 110 In Dallas, Minnesota won its second overtime game in as many nights as Terry Porter came off the bench to score seven points in the extra session.

Tom Gugliotta and Kevin Garnett scored 22 points each and Stephon Marbury added 20 for the Timberwolves, who rallied from a 24-point third-quarter deficit.

Jazz 107, Magic 93 In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone scored 32 points and John Stockton added 21 points and 10 assists as Utah handed Orlando its third straight loss.

SuperSonics 99, Cavaliers 81 Shawn Kemp was booed repeatedly in his return to Seattle and Gary Payton scored 28 points and had a decisive 3-point play down the stretch in the SuperSonics' victory.

Boos rained down on Kemp, who spent the first eight years of his career with the Sonics, when he was introduced and every time he touched the ball. He finished with 17 points, shooting 5-for-11, with seven rebounds and three assists.

Cedric Henderson, a rookie, led the Cavs with a career-high 23 points and Wesly Person added 16.

Lakers 108, Heat 99 Shaquille O'Neal scored 11 of his 24 points in the final five and a half minutes and Nick Van Exel added 23 as Los Angeles downed visiting Miami.

Voshon Lenard scored a season-high 28 points and Isaac Austin added 20 for the Heat. Kobe Bryant scored 21 points off the bench for the Lakers and Eddie Jones added 20.

A Close Call for the Blue Devils

The Associated Press

Second-ranked Duke led by 24 points in the second half but had to hang on in the final seconds for its sixth-straight Atlantic Coast Conference victory, edging Clemson, 81-80, behind a season-high 23 points from Trajan Langdon.

The victory by the host Blue Devils (16-1, 6-0) on Saturday night, coupled with No. 1 North Carolina's loss to

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Maryland last week, should give Duke the nation's top ranking for the second time this season.

The Tigers (11-6, 2-3), No. 5 in the preseason poll, trailed 55-31 early in the second half — and by 19 points with 9:16 left — before staging a furious comeback.

Clemson rallied behind Terrell McIntyre's outside game and Harold Jamison's inside power, running off a 30-12 streak before the final hectic seconds. Langdon's 15-footer gave Duke an 81-78 lead with one minute left, but Jamison, who finished with 12 points, scored a dunk 13 seconds later.

McIntyre then missed with 19 seconds left and, after an exchange of turnovers, Clemson had two final chances to pull off the miracle. But McIntyre's 12-footer hit the front of the rim with three seconds left and Iker Iburze's desperation shot at the buzzer also found iron.

No. 3 Kansas 69, Kansas St. 62 In Lawrence, Kansas, the Jayhawks tied a school record with their 55th straight home-court victory. Ryan Robinson hit a 3-pointer with 1:12 to play to give Kansas (21-2, 5-0 Big 12) a 65-58 lead, and then made two free throws with 45 seconds left for a 67-61 lead after Aaron Swartzendruber had made a 3-pointer for the Wildcats (11-4, 2-3).

No. 10 Connecticut 86, Georgetown 72 Kevin Freeman had 21 points and 13 rebounds and the host Huskies took over with a 21-4 run to start the second half.

Richard Hamilton had 25 points to lead UConn (16-2, 6-1 Big East), six in the run that allowed the team to come back from a 44-42 halftime deficit to take a 63-48 lead. Georgetown (9-6, 3-5) never got closer than eight points the rest of the way.

No. 18 Xavier 77, Virginia Tech 66 In Cincinnati, Torrey Bragg matched his career high with 24 points and Lenny Brown led a 23-4 game-opening run. Xavier (11-4, 3-2 Atlantic 10) led by double digits the rest of the way.

No. 19 Michigan 79, Ohio St. 61 In Columbus, Louis Bullock scored 28 points and was 5-of-7 from 3-point range and 13-for-13 from the foul line as the Wolverines won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Boston College 64, No. 23 Marquette 54 Antonio Granger made four 3-pointers and tied his career-high with 22 points for the visiting Eagles. A sophomore guard, John Cliff, had a career-high 17 points for Marquette (10-4).

Undaunted by Loss, Venus Williams Charges Ahead

By Samantha Stevenson
New York Times Service

SYDNEY, Australia — As a disappointed Venus Williams walked off the center court after losing to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the final of the Sydney International tennis tournament, her mother, Oracene, reached out and hugged her.

"There were no tears," Williams said after the match Saturday. "And there is no need for emotions in the match, up and down, in and out, it takes energy.

Karol Kucera, who beat Tim Henman in the men's final in Sydney, was undaunted by the loss. She had been up 5-3 in the second set when Williams came back to win the final game, 6-3.

"I think I didn't play anywhere near my best," Williams said in an interview afterward. "She was very consistent. I'm more of a high-risk player. I have to work on that part of my game. I was impatient

but afterward, it's a wonderful time to rejoice or whatever is your fashion."

Williams's remarkable performance last week, as she beat Martina Hingis en route to the final Saturday, has placed her in the spotlight at the Australian Open, where she will be on center court Monday night against unseeded Alexia Dechamme-Balleret of France.

At Flinders Park here, Williams has a chance to meet her younger sister, Serena, in the second round, if Serena is able to upset sixth-ranked Irina Spirieva.

The 17-year-old Venus Williams began barnstorming through the women's rankings with ease at the U.S. Open last September, when she was ranked No. 66. After Sydney, she is ranked No. 15, and Serena Williams, who lost to Sanchez Vicario in the semifinals, has climbed from No. 304 to 56.

"I've been here a long time," Venus Williams said of her preparations in Australia for the first Grand Slam tournament of the year. "But it's O.K., now there are more names, more players. Venus and Serena are examples of athletes. They hit hard on both sides of the ball, but they met a player who plays a level of game they should play to win."

Venus Williams had said before the match that she didn't want to "muddle my head" with too much strategy, but use her athletic instincts on the court. Afterward, she was uncovered by her defeat to a player known for her tenacity and court savvy.

"Maybe this match is a turning point for me," Williams said. "I made a lot of aggressive plays. The more I do it, the better I'll get."

This almost guileless self-confidence is part of an aura that has been growing around the sisters since they first began playing on the southern California junior

circuit at the ages of 10 and 8. Then, it seemed that their mother and their father, Richard, could not stop talking about their daughters' talent; now, the hyperbole is, quite amazingly, becoming fact.

Kucera, 23, who led Slovakia to a surprise victory at the Hopman Cup in Perth a week ago, may be an unseeded threat at the Australian Open.

Ranked No. 25 coming into Sydney, Kucera has been making strides since he started to work last May with the 1988 Olympic champion Miloslav Mečir. Kucera was ranked No.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Unlikely Groupings In European Draw

SOCCER In a draw that may make post-World Cup life tough for England, France, Yugoslavia and Croatia, the defending European champion Germany escaped with a relatively smooth path to the 2000 European Championships.

The draw was made in Ghent, Belgium, on Sunday.

England drew Bulgaria, Poland, Sweden and Luxembourg in its qualifying, Group Five, with only the group winner assured of making the finals.

Yugoslavia and Croatia, who fought a six-month war in 1991, were drawn in the same Group Eight, which also included the former Yugoslav republic Macedonia. It will be the first time Yugoslavia and Croatia play each other as independent states.

The Yugoslav coach, Slobodan Santrac, played down any lingering animosity. "Our players are together in Real Madrid, the Italian and Spanish leagues. They are friends."

France, which had complained bitterly about not being seeded at Sunday's draw, now faces Russia and a resurgent Ukraine in its qualifying Group Four.

Only Belgium and the Netherlands were able to sit back and enjoy the nerve-racking draw — as co-hosts they qualify automatically for the ninth European Championship finals.

But Germany got a relatively easy draw, in the same group as Turkey, Finland, Northern Ireland and Moldova.

Another tough qualifying group is Group One, featuring Italy, Denmark, Switzerland and Wales. Group Seven is evenly matched with Romania, Portugal, Slovakia and Hungary.

Qualifying begins in September, less than two months after the July 12 World Cup final. (AP)

Stangassinger Triumphs

SKIING The reigning Olympic champion, Thomas Stangassinger of Austria, won a World Cup slalom on Sunday in Veysomaz, Switzerland, to collect his seventh career victory, while Alberto Tomba crashed out, missing out on his 50th.

Stangassinger was joined on the podium by two dark horses, Kristinn Bjornsson of Iceland and Kiminobu Kimura of Japan. Hermann Maier of Austria placed 10th to clinch the combined event.

Leader after the first leg, Stangassinger delivered another high-velocity run on the icy, bumpy Piste de l'Ours for a two-run combined time of 1 minute, 38.12 seconds. (AP)

In Zauchensee, Austria, Renate Goetschl gave the Austrian women their first World Cup victory in more than a year and Martina Erd of Germany clinched her second victory of the season on a busy day of racing Sunday.

Goetschl won the morning's downhill, finishing with a time of 1:30.10, while Erd took the super-g slalom three hours later, clocking in at one minute, 25.90 seconds. (AP)

India's Memorable Day

CRICKET India made cricket history Sunday when it beat its traditional rival, Pakistan, in a sensational finish with one delivery to spare to win the Independence Cup, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Chasing a mammoth victory target of 315 runs, India hit up 316 for seven with one delivery to spare. No other team has ever scored 316 runs while batting second in a one-day international. India owed its triumph to opener Saurav Ganguly's century, Robin Singh's 83 and Sachin Tendulkar's 41. (AP)

Bari Shocks Inter and Ronaldo

2d Loss Drops Milan's League Lead to One Point Over Juventus

The Associated Press

Phil Masinga fired in the winner with 23 minutes left to lift Bari to a shocking 1-0 victory Sunday over the Italian League's leader, Internazionale of Milan, and the world player of the year, Ronaldo.

Inter Milan's second loss in 16 matches this season — and first home defeat — cut the club's lead in the standings from four points to just one over the defending champion, Juventus of Turin, which routed Bologna, 3-1.

Filippo Inzaghi scored twice in the first 19 minutes and Alessandro Del Piero tucked a 25-meter free kick under the crossbar in the second half to lead Juventus (10-5-1).

"This was a big day, psychologically," the Juventus coach, Marcello Lippi, said. "There are still 18 games left in the season, but getting closer now is an important boost."

Inter (11-3-2) was undone by its often shaky defense, which allowed Masinga to find space in front of the net. The South African, in his first Serie A campaign, netted his fourth goal by knocking in the rebound after Inter's goalkeeper, Gianluca Pagliuca, failed to handle his close-range header.

At the other end, Ronaldo — the Brazilian who collected FIFA's top award last week for the second straight year — was held without a goal for the fifth match in a row.

Juventus did not face its former star, Roberto Baggio, in the match at Bologna. Italy's 1994 World Cup hero refused to sit on the bench — since coach Renzo Olivieri decided not to start him — and walked out on the team Saturday night, a team official announced Sunday.

Elsewhere, third-place Udinese fell further with its second straight 1-1 draw

against a club in the relegation zone. Last week it was against last-place Napoli, this week it was 16th-place Atalanta of Bergamo.

Udinese trailed Atalanta before its German striker Oliver Bierhoff equalized in the 49th minute with his 12th goal of the season.

Striking Lazio of Rome moved up to fourth place with a 3-1 comeback win at Fiorentina on goals by the Croat striker Alen Bokic, Roberto Rambaudi and the Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Fiorentina played with 10 men for the final 42 minutes after the Swedish midfielder Stefan Schwarz was expelled for a rough foul on Nedved.

Sampdoria of Genoa continued its prolific scoring, following up last week's five-goal effort with a 3-1 victory at Lecce. Vincenzo Montella scored twice to raise his tally to 13.

In other games Saturday, Celta beat Espanyol, 1-0, with a goal from Juan Sanchez, and Oviedo trounced Zaragoza, 3-0, with the help of two goals from Roberto Pompei and one from Peter Dubovský.

Other games Sunday included a 0-0 draw between Athletic de Bilbao and Betis. Compostela put on a better show, earning a 3-0 victory over Merida.

ENGLAND Everton moved up three places away from the relegation zone and dented Chelsea's title hopes with a 3-1 victory Sunday at Goodison Park.

Strikes by Gary Speed and Duncan Ferguson and Chelsea defender Michael Duberry's goal into his own net, lifted Everton to 13th of the 20 Premier League teams while the visitors remained third, seven points behind league-leading Manchester United, who can go even further ahead Monday by winning at Southampton.

played from the start for the first time. Elsewhere, Real Sociedad held onto the No. 3 spot but was defeated, 3-1, by Racing de Santander.

A goal from Vladimir Bestchastnykh gave the home team an early lead, converted to 2-0 in the 16th by a goal from Nelson Abeijon, a Uruguayan.

Real Sociedad looked threatening again when Darko Kovacevic scored in the 81st, but Racing came back seven minutes later with a goal from Fernando Correa, another of its four Uruguayan players.

Another 21st-round upset, played Saturday, Atletico de Madrid was defeated, 2-1, by Valladolid. In that game, Santi Dania put the goal into his own net.

An equalizer from Francisco Narvaez kept Atletico in the game until Alen Pertermac got Valladolid's second goal.

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Real Madrid's Raul Gonzalez, right, battling Salamanca's Marco Lamant

GREECE Christos Maladenis scored two goals Sunday as AEK Athens beat PAOK Salonica, 3-0, at home, to regain the lead in the Greek first division.

After 18 rounds, AEK leads with 47 points, four ahead of Olympiakos Piraeus, which has played only 17 games. Olympiakos shares second place with Panathinaikos Athens. The Athens squad beat cross-town Panionios, 2-1.

Maladenis opened the scoring for the

hosts a perfect pass from Daniel Batista in the 16th minute. Salonica's goalkeeper Nikos Michopoulos saved a low shot by Batista with an outstretched leg in the 34th. In the 51st, AEK's goalie, Ilias Armandidis, made a key save on a shot by Dimitris Kapetanopoulos.

Five minutes later, Batista made the score 2-0 with a header off a free kick from Harris Kopitidis. It was Batista's seventh goal of the season.

Australians Rally in Final Swim Events

The Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Australia collected three gold medals on the final night of the world swimming championships Sunday, while American swimmers won a pair, including Lenny Krayzelburg's golden double in the backstroke.

Australia struck gold with Susie O'Neill in the 200-meter butterfly, Grant Hackett in the 1,500 meters and the men's 400-meter medley relay team and Michael Klim, who gave his team the lead on his butterfly leg of the relay to win his fourth gold medal of the meet.

The Americans finished second in the relay, the first time they have ever lost the event at a world championship or Olympic meet.

Any Van Dyken of the United States, a gold medalist at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, won the 50-meter freestyle to give the Americans a total of 17 gold medals for the meet. Australia finished with seven first-place finishes.

Krayzelburg, a Ukrainian-born competitor for the United States, who won the 100 meters on Thursday, finished in 1 minute, 53.84 to edge Ralf Braun of Germany over 200 meters, with Mark Versfeld of Canada winning the bronze.

"Coming here my aim was to win the 100 and 200 backstroke," said Krayzelburg, 22. "Now that I've come away with a couple of gold medals I feel confident performing in this sort of arena."

"It's the experience I didn't have in Atlanta," he said.

The 22-year-old Krayzelburg became the first American to win the event since Rick Carey took the gold in 1982. Krayzelburg came to the United States from the former Soviet Union when he was a teenager.

O'Neill, who passed the American swimmer Misty Hyman near the 150-meter mark and then powered home to win in a meet-record 2:07.93, won a bronze in Rome in 1994 in the last world



Irina Lashko, left, and Julia Pakhalina of Russia making their final synchronized dive Sunday to win the gold.

championships. Another Australian, Petria Thomas, was second, followed by Hyman in third.

"I was pretty nervous before the race, because I really wanted it badly," said the 24-year-old O'Neill. "Maybe I can retire now."

O'Neill now holds butterfly titles at Commonwealth, Pan-Pacific, Olympic and world championship levels.

Thomas also sped past Hyman on the final lap after the American had led for the first 140 meters.

"It was a hard race," said Thomas, 22. "I gave myself the best chance I could, but Susie was the best on the night."

Van Dyken finished the 50 in 25.15 seconds ahead of Sandra Voelker of Germany in 25.32 and Shan Ying of China, who won the bronze in 25.36.

The defending champion, Le Jingyi of China, missed the race because of injury. Jenny Thompson of the United States, trying to win her fifth gold medal of the meet, was fourth.

Hackett's time of 14 minutes, 51.70 seconds was the fifth fastest in history to finish ahead of Emiliano Brembilas of

Italy. The world record holder and Olympic champion, Kieren Perkins, did not compete. He failed to qualify at the Australian trials when he was beaten by Hackett and Daniel Kowalski, the bronze medalist Sunday.

Earlier, Irina Lashko and Julia Pakhalina of Russia won the gold medal in the women's 3-meter springboard synchronized diving, and Daniel Saenz added the gold for 10-meter platform diving to his earlier 3-meter diving victory.

Chinese Assurances on Drugs

Assurances by Chinese swimming officials that six drug offenses at the world swimming championships are not a sign of systematic doping have been accepted by the sport's governing body, The Associated Press reported.

Gunnar Werner, the honorary secretary of FINA, the international swimming federation, said Sunday that there was no reason to believe that because six Chinese were expelled from the meet, that was an indication of deeper problems in the Chinese system.

"It is not a systematic thing decided by the Chinese federation," Werner

said. "It is certain coaches and certain swimmers involved, and I'm sure the Chinese swimming federation is taking every step in order to stop this."

Four Chinese swimmers tested positive for the diuretic triamterene while another teammate, Yuan Yuan, was suspended for four years after muscle-building hormones were found in her bag on arrival in Sydney.

Yuan's coach, Zhou Zhewen, was banned for 15 years after he told authorities that he packed Yuan's bag.

Abuse of diuretics carries a minimum two-year suspension for the first offense.

Werner said it might be a good idea to follow the International Olympic Committee's lead and put diuretics on a par with steroids.

Under FINA rules, steroids carry a minimum four-year ban, although the IOC and all other Olympic sports organizations have opted for two-year bans. Any change in the rules, Werner said, would come about only after discussions by FINA's doping panel and executive committee, and would be ratified by the full congress.

could be present. But No. 33, taking the parquet floor for the first time with another team, stole the spotlight from his former teammate — first just by showing up, and then by coaching his team to victory.

Jalen Rose came off the bench with 20 points, Dale Davis added nine rebounds and Mark Jackson had 13 assists as Indiana won its fifth consecutive game.

Ron Mercer scored 21 for Boston and Antoine Walker had 16 for Boston. Walker was 5-for-18 shooting, but scored eight in a row in the fourth quarter as the Celtics rallied to tie it 93-93 with 2:18 left.

After Walker's 3-point play cut the lead to two with 3:26 to play, Indiana's Reggie Miller, who scored 20, hit two free throws and Chauncey Billups made a reverse lay-up to ice the victory.

Bird played 13 years for the Celtics, won three NBA titles and had his No. 33 retired by the team on Feb. 4, 1993.

Rose made one of two free throws and then Miller hit a 3-pointer to make it 97-93 with 1:23 left. Smiths got the rebound on a missed shot by Walker and then Miller made a lay-up to ice the victory.

Bird played 13 years for the Celtics, won three NBA titles and had his No. 33 retired by the team on Feb. 4, 1993.

But Hingis, beaten by Mary Pierce at the year-end Chase Championships last November, also became the first No. 1-ranked woman to begin her season with an opening-round loss since the rankings were established in 1975.

Hingis's loss to Venus Williams in Sydney the Swiss player had lost two matches in a row, to set the stage for Graf's return after a prolonged absence occasioned by major knee surgery and for Seles's first campaign in Melbourne since she won the 1996 title, has instead become a wannabe between a bumper crop of teenage girls, the Williams sisters, the threatening sisters from the United States.

The most striking Australian Open debutantes are the Williams sisters, who took the city of Sydney by storm with their warm-up for this tournament. Venus gave her 1998 campaign a kick-start with a second-round ouster of Hingis, and Serena plowed through the qualifying competition and promptly sent a message to Lucie, in the opening round before stunning second-seeded Lindsay Davenport.

Her impressive run ended in the semifinals when she lost to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, 6-2, 6-1. Sanchez Vicario then beat Venus in the final Saturday, 6-1, 6-3.

Hingis held the rest of the tour hostage in 1997 by winning three of the four Grand Slam events.

And she came within one match of winning a Grand Slam event for 1997 with her runner-up finish to Iva Majoli at the French Open, a month after undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery.

Now, he is intent on repairing his unflattering history here where he has three first-round exits.